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Cool Waters
*Filmmaker John Waters
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 39 • 24 September 1998

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 27 years

Safe SM brochure to debut at Folsom Street Fair

by Liz Highleyman

The Stop AIDS Project has joined with several local leather and SM organizations to produce the first San Francisco pamphlet on safe SM. The new brochure, entitled "SM Sex Safely: Practical Tips from the San Francisco Bay Area SM Community," will make its debut at Sunday's Folsom Street Fair. Last year, Stop AIDS was instrumental in getting condoms into gay bars in time to greet the hordes that descended upon the city for Leatherweek.

In addition, Stop AIDS will soon initiate a new discussion for gay and bisexual men into leather and SM. Topics will include community, roles, mentoring, communication, barebacking, and safety. Details will be available soon.

The "SM Sex Safely" project was initiated by leather activist Peter Fiske of the 15 Association, and was modeled in part on materials from the AIDS Committee of Toronto. Karen Kirchner of the Exiles women's SM group was editor of the brochure, and Daddy Philip Turner was also a strong supporter. Medical and other experts were consulted during the several-month-long process of putting the pamphlet together. Printing and distribution were funded by a coalition of Bay Area leather and SM groups including the AIDS Emergency Fund, the Exiles, the 15 Association, the Society of Janus, and several leather-oriented bars and businesses.

According to Jed Herman, Stop AIDS neighborhood organizer for South of Market, the pamphlet seeks to reach people with a wide range of experience, "from the most experienced players to the curious and anx-

page 31 ►



Rampant flaggotry

Leather Week kicked off with the traditional Leather Walk, from the Castro to south of Market Sunday, Sept. 20.

Mister Marcus

Folsom Street Fair caps off Leather Week

What a wonderful feeling to see Folsom Street, from 5th to 11th streets, festooned with huge red, white, black and blue Leather Pride banners affixed to the light and telephone poles. Right about now, everyone in the city is in an enhanced leather mood.

The powers that be in the City and County of San Francisco, and especially the folks managing the Hotel Tax Fund and Grants for

the Arts, have finally acknowledged that the big influx of people arriving for Leather Week and the Folsom Street Fair are a financial boon to the local economy. Appropriately, the city dispensed a few thousand dollars to create and install those banners. They're ours to keep and display at this and all future fairs.

Already the city is inundated with visitors, mostly of the leather persuasion. With

their arrival, hotels, B&Bs and motels are completely full, not to mention all those spare bedrooms, couches, and rollaway beds all over the city.

San Francisco, "The City That Knows How," is in the spotlight around the world with this event. Almost a thousand volunteers are working to make the street party a huge success, raise money for worthy causes,

page 60 ►

UCSF AIDS doctor questions early HIV treatment

by Cynthia Laird

According to a theory put forward by a pioneering AIDS researcher at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), treating HIV with antiviral drugs too early can work against the patient's natural immune system and do more harm than good.

In a "viewpoint" piece published in the September 19 issue of *Lancet*, Dr. Jay A. Levy, a UCSF professor of medicine and one of the first to discover HIV, outlined his concerns about the current strategy advocated by the clinical community for prescribing combination drug therapy. Levy's article is entitled "Caution: Should We Be Treating HIV Infection Early?"

Levy's research has focused on natural immune response against the AIDS virus. Combination therapy, or "cocktail therapy," relies on antiviral drugs to disable HIV's mechanism.

The accepted treatment guideline, Levy said, is to begin antiviral therapy "as soon as possible and with as large an armamentarium as is available." He emphasized that his concern is not about the treatment itself, but

is about the stage at which it is initiated.

"Physicians should carefully consider the time when drug therapy is begun for infected individuals who are past the acute infection phase," Levy wrote. "Until we have a good surrogate marker presaging irreversible damage to the immune system or a means of inducing an anti-HIV immune response, a delay in initiating therapy should be considered."

In his view, "treatment with antiviral drugs starts the clock ticking too soon, limiting future options and making therapy a necessity for the lifetime of the person."

"Any decision to stop the drugs could only be made if one had assurances that all infected cells had been eliminated — now an unlikely event — or the immune system has recovered sufficiently to control HIV,"

page 27 ►



Dr. Jay Levy

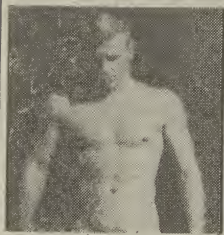
Rick Gerhardt

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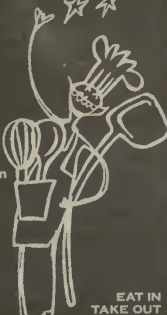
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Gay man alleges harassment at Concord El Torito

by Timothy Rodrigues

A gay East Bay resident filed suit Wednesday, September 9 against Family Restaurants, Inc., the parent company of the El Torito restaurant in Concord, alleging sexual orientation discrimination and sexual harassment by his former employer.

Kenneth Jeffress had been employed as a waiter with various Family Restaurants around the country since 1979, and returned to the Concord El Torito in October 1996, where he alleges it took less than two weeks for him to notice "snickering" among the kitchen staff. He also says he felt forced to resign on September 11, 1997 due to the accumulated stress of the situation.

The complaint, filed in Contra Costa County Superior Court on behalf of Jeffress by the Law Offices of Paul Wotman, alleges a series of harassing incidents by co-workers that became increasingly serious and confrontational.

The harassment began with derogatory and demeaning comments such as "hoto," "maricon," and "puto" — Spanish terms reasonably translated to "queer," "faggot," and "homo."

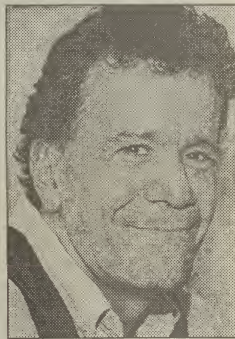
In January 1997 Jeffress reported the slurs to his manager, Manning Loomis, who said "he should not have shared his sexual orientation with his co-workers," according to the complaint.

"I've never had a problem with my sexuality; never had a problem coming out," said Jeffress, but with the harassment in the kitchen he felt boxed into a corner. "I tried to just let it go because I wasn't getting any support," he said. "I didn't want this thing to get out of hand."

Some of the incidents were so upsetting to Jeffress that they brought him to tears, and caused embarrassment, humiliation, emotional and physical distress, increased alcohol consumption, and the need to see a therapist.

"It started to get real painful," he said, adding, "I never cried over things like that before."

The complaint alleges that on several occasions in 1997, Jeffress's co-workers put their hands to their faces to simulate oral sex,



Kenneth Jeffress

and made "harassing sexual advances towards him with phallic symbols such as bananas and cucumbers."

Jeffress says that after co-workers allegedly began to slap his rear end and grab his testicles, and when verbal comments became more salacious including questions about sexual acts, he again reported the occurrences to Loomis, as well as two other managers. He speculates that reporting may have contributed to the increasing severity of the incidents as well as acts of retaliation alleged in the complaint.

His timecards and keys were taken; customer checks, cash, and tips went missing; and food Jeffress ordered to serve his customers would be served late or not at all.

"Management was starting to question me on my abilities," said Jeffress.

Mirror mirror?

In August 1997, Jeffress used the employee restroom and found his nickname, Candelario, written on the mirror in the feminized Spanish version, Candelaria, along with "es mui puto"; roughly translated, "Miss Jeffress is a big faggot."

The general manager of the restaurant, Jorge Serrano, saw the writing on the mirror but said "there was nothing he could do," according to the complaint.

Soon after, Jeffress's work schedule was reduced to the point where he was not making enough money, and he resigned on Sep-

tember 11.

The lawsuit alleges that Family Restaurants "engaged in a continuous course of harassment and discrimination against [Jeffress] based on his sexual orientation, ... took no action and allowed the continuation of a hostile, harassing, and intolerable work environment, and ... knowingly permitted adverse and discriminatory working conditions."

The lawsuit alleges sexual orientation discrimination in violation of the California Labor Code, retaliation in violation of the California Government Code, "constructive discharge" (in this case, failing to remedy the discriminatory work environment that forced Jeffress to resign) in violation of both the labor and government codes, as well as the California Constitution; and sexual harassment in violation of California Government Code.

Wotman emphasized the sexual harassment charge and made reference to this year's precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of a heterosexual male employee on an oil rig who sued his openly heterosexual co-workers for sexual harassment because they taunted him with anti-gay phrases and actions.

"I think it's going to be a successful argument for gay people," he said, adding that heterosexual men often assume that they can touch or hit a gay man when they are harassing him.

A successful sexual harassment charge can possibly increase the damages that can be awarded.

Family Restaurants, Inc., with headquarters in Irvine, California, claims to be "the largest operator of full service Mexican restaurants in the world"; it operates a number of restaurants in the United States including Chi-Chi's, Tequila Willie's, and 97 El Torito restaurants. Calls to company representatives about the lawsuit were not returned.

The company has announced plans for a merger with Koo Koo Roo, Inc., a restaurant chain with a flagship franchise in West Hollywood's gay section that is famous for a steady supply of cheap chicken available for pick-up.

A status conference on the lawsuit is scheduled for January 28. ▽

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hearing set for Wilmes murder suspect

by Cynthia Laird

Edgar Mora, the South San Francisco man charged with murdering gay San Francisco resident Brian Wilmes in March, will face a preliminary hearing Monday, November 16 at the Hall of Justice. Mora, 25, faces one charge of murder and one charge of assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury against a witness, according to Maggie Lynch with the San Francisco District Attorney's office.

Mora is in custody at the San Francisco jail, where he has remained since his arrest shortly after the alleged attack that ended Wilmes's life at the age of 45. Police questioned a woman they have declined to identify, who allegedly drove Mora from the scene. Authorities considered bringing charges against her but dropped that idea. She could be called as a witness.

The charges against Mora stem from the March 12 attack near the Loading Dock bar on Mission Street, in which Mora allegedly



Brian Wilmes

tore his shirt off his body and was rampaging down Mission Street, hitting a passing bicyclist, kicking passing cars, and trying to break the glass of a bus shelter, police said. When a homeless man, Michael Gillespie, urged Mora to calm down, Mora reportedly struck Gillespie on the back of the head.

Witnesses told police that Mora then crossed the street and

started pounding on the door of the Jon Sims Center, a rehearsal space serving queer performing artists. Unsuccessful in his attempt to get in, Mora then turned on Wilmes, who was just arriving at the Loading Dock, accompanied by a casual friend, Tim Carroll of Sacramento.

According to witness accounts given to the police, Mora yelled anti-gay slurs and screamed at Wilmes, "Do you want a piece of me?" After that, he struck Wilmes in the mouth, knocking him down and causing Wilmes to hit his head on the sidewalk and lose consciousness. Mora then ran across the street and got into a blue compact car allegedly driven by the woman, and the car fled westbound on Mission Street.

Wilmes was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where he died two days later.

Based on the getaway car's license plate, which was recorded by Gillespie and perhaps others, police officers tracked Mora to his home and arrested him without incident.

District Attorney Terence Hallinan told community members attending a forum in the Castro shortly after the attack that he could not file hate crime charges against Mora because of a quirk in the penal code that does not classify hate crimes based on sexual orientation. ▼

Healing Alternatives burgled

by Timothy Rodrigues

Healing Alternatives, a long-time, community based HIV drug "recycler" and supplement provider, was robbed of an estimated \$50,000 in supplies on Tuesday, September 22. John Salvati, general manager of Healing Alternatives told the Bay Area Reporter someone broke into the offices in the Bank of America building at 505 Castro Street, most likely between 10:30 and 11 a.m.

Salvati told the B.A.R. that a Bank of America guard witnessed a person leaving the premises carrying boxes around the time of the burglary. According to the guard, he had seen the man in line at the bank the day before.

The stolen items included a variety of supplements and vitamins on display for sale in the office; cash; and nearly \$40,000 of the "recycled" drugs Epogen and Nu-

pogen, drugs used respectively to treat anemia caused by AZT and to counteract the bone marrow toxicity of HIV drugs, intended for medical facilities in sub-Saharan Africa.

"We are devastated by this. They pretty much cleaned us out," said Salvati. "There are two clinics in Congo and Zimbabwe that were depending on this."

Healing Alternatives Foundation obtains \$100,000 to \$130,000 in surplus HIV drugs a month from a variety of sources and provides them to people who need them locally, as well as to clinics. They also maintain a resource library and a buyers' club that offers discounts on supplements, vitamins and minerals, and experimental therapies.

Police were investigating the break-in and dusting for fingerprints Tuesday afternoon. Information on possible suspects or descriptions was not available at press time. ▼

Correction:

The Bay Area Reporter neglected to credit the color photograph of convicted murderer Josh Puckett on the cover last week. The photograph is a copyrighted image by Lionel Biron, to whom we apologize profusely.

For the record, and by happy coincidence, Biron is also the author of this week's "Virtual Queer" column on page 10, proving he is as adept at words as he is at pictures. ▼

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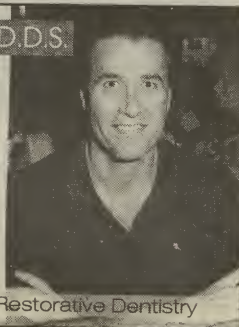
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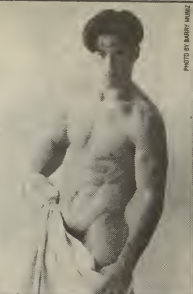
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Saintly deed doers



Honorees at Metropolitan Community Church's annual "Saints Alive!" event basked in the glow of recognition on September 19. Pictured (L to R) are the Rev. Jimmy Creech, Jadine Louie of the L/G Freedom Band, Tommi Avicolli Mecca of a Different Light Bookstore, Sande Leigh of the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, Sister Bernie Galvin of the Religious Witness with the Homeless People Project, and Agar Jaicks of the Human Rights Commission. The event was emceed by Lord Martine (far right).

'Excuse me, I'm here to inspect your poll'

Election season inaugurated

by Timothy Rodrigues

Last spring the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club was accused of not supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender candidates for the June 1998 election for the San Francisco Democratic Central Committee. This time around, in completing endorsements for the November 3, 1998 general election, the club produced "an all-queer slate of candidates for supervisor," according to club president Criss Romero.

The club endorsed Supervisor Tom Ammiano early, in February 1998. Later, it added Supervisor Mark Leno and challengers Denise D'Anne and Victor Marquez.

Romero said the endorsement of D'Anne, a transgender woman and environmental activist, "proved to be somewhat of a solid

decision" as the Milk Club was one of her earliest organizational endorsements, and she has gone on to garner several others.

The club also took a positive stand on Proposition 5, the Indian gaming initiative, in support of Native American solidarity, according to Romero.

"I think that's going to be very contentious," he said regarding the issue.

The Milk Club will distribute a complete list of their endorsements in the weeks before the election.

Register queers and keep an eye on staffs

The San Francisco Democratic party will be canvassing the Castro this weekend, September 26 and 27, to "register voters among key demographic groups who traditionally support the Democratic Party and then turn them out to vote on election day, while build-

ing coalitions between various groups, communities and organizations."

Information on registering or helping can be obtained by calling (415) 626-1161 or (415) 995-9750.

Election Day is less than six weeks away, so the San Francisco Department of Elections is seeking people to "be a guardian of our democratic process" by working in paid positions as inspectors and clerks on November 3.

Approximately 3,500 people over 18 years old who are U.S. citizens and residents of San Francisco are needed to staff 650 voting sites from 6:30 a.m. to approximately 9 p.m.

Inspectors are paid \$93 and must have transportation. Clerks will receive \$73, and groups that provide 12 or more individuals will receive \$864. Interested people can call (415) 554-4395 for more information. ▼

Black tie and Gray address at Alliance dinner Saturday

by Timothy Rodrigues

Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, the Democratic party nominee for governor in the November election, will appear at the Bay Area Lesbian and Gay Non-Partisan Alliance's 15th anniversary fund-raising dinner this Saturday, September 26.

Organizers plan to ask Davis to make a commitment to sign a gay civil rights bill if he becomes governor and faces that choice. Davis's speech will be videotaped in order to hold him to any promises he makes; Governor Pete Wilson reneged on a similar promise he made to the group at a

breakfast during his campaign eight years ago.

The Alliance identifies itself as California's largest lesbian and gay political action committee, as well as a volunteer organization that advances the civil rights of lesbians and gays by working to elect qualified persons to local and statewide office.

Co-chair Mike Rosoff said the organization is particularly energized this year "because the Christian Coalition has practically destroyed the president and it looks like we are the next target."

The evening will feature presentations of the Civic Achievement Award to Dr. Lisa Capalini for her successful fund-raising ef-

forts, and the Don Disler Award to Supervisor Mark Leno for "stepping out of private life and into the political fray."

Dana Adkins, star of stage and screen, formerly with *Beach Blanket Babylon*, will perform in celebration of George Gershwin's 100th birthday. ▼

Tickets are \$150 a person or \$250 a couple, and are available by calling (415) 775-0631 or purchasing them at the door, at the ANA Hotel, located at 50 Third Street in San Francisco. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 p.m.; dinner is at 8; dress is black tie or glamorous attire.

COMMUNITY NEWS

East Bay geared up for Gay Mardi Gras Sat.

by Cynthia Laird

Everyone is invited to spend the day before the Folsom Street Fair in downtown Oakland, as East Bay Pride wraps up a month of celebration with the second annual Gay Mardi Gras Saturday, September 26. Several bands and DJs will provide rousing entertainment on several stages and a good time should be had by all, said Pete King, president and founder of East Bay Pride.

Last year's inaugural event drew thousands of diverse revelers and was a smashing success. Organizers are hoping this year's event runs just as smoothly. There will be four stage areas, plus food, refreshments, nonprofit ex-

hibitors, commercial vendors, and artisans. The event runs from noon until 6 p.m.

Proceeds from the daylong festival will benefit the Pacific Center for Human Growth, the Rainbow Community Center, the Center for AIDS Services, and AIDS Project of the East Bay. Admission is \$10 per person at the gate or \$5 in advance.

On the main stage, several bands are slated to perform, including Wild Angels, Thunderpussy, SuperBooty, Lingua, and The Wait. Performers include Tommi Rose, Cheer San Francisco, David Allen Mors, and Visiting Imperial Courts.

Over on the Latin Stage, bands scheduled to perform include the Julio Bravo Band, Gupo Matizz,

and Rio Boyz. DJs expected to be on hand are Salvador Calvillo, Cesar Molina, Ivette Fuentes, Chili D., and KYLD-Wild 94.9's St. John. Performers include Adela Holiday; Chocolate Fantasy; Marsha, Marsha, Marsha; Ysenia; and the Fabuloso Latin Drag Queens.

Meanwhile, at the Rimshot Stage, Oakland DJs Brandon and Edward will be joined by Chris Johnson from Los Angeles for an afternoon of pulsating music. Finally, the House Stage will feature several DJs from KMEL radio station; Kev-Dawg, from the Rainbow Room in Hayward; Allen, from Pure Sound in Walnut Creek; Terry Hayes, from Oakland's Cables Reef; and Jay R, from the White Horse in Oakland.

Presenting sponsors for the event include the Miller Brewing Company, the Oakland Tribune, Corona Cerveza, Pyramid Ales, the East Bay Business and Professional Alliance, the 7-Up Bottling Company, and Sausa Productions. The Pacific Center is serving as the nonprofit sponsor, King added. ▼

Women to celebrate at Russian River this weekend

by Cynthia Laird

The Russian River community of Guerneville will be full of lesbians this weekend, as the second annual Women's Weekend kicks off Friday, September 25 and continues through Sunday, September 27 with contests, music, and much, much more.

Organizers have a variety of events planned, starting Friday night with a welcome party. Saturday starts off with a pancake breakfast featuring a guest speaker from Gay Games V. Other activities include hot women in leather on a Harley with a barbecue, and guest speaker author Dr. Marny Hall. Comedian Maureen Brownsey emcees a wet t-shirt

contest.

Also that afternoon will be two contests, "Best Brat's Butt in Blue Jeans" and the "Best Butch in Boxers."

Saturday night will feature a clean and sober dance, plus the "Ms. Big and Beautiful," and the "Ms. Bull Dyke" contests.

Sunday will feature gospel music by the water, a walk in the woods with a gourmet lunch, comedians, and the dating game. The weekend ends with a "Ms. Right for Now" commitment ceremony. ▼

For more information, call (707) 869-0452 or the Russian River Chamber or Commerce at (707) 869-9000, or e-mail chamber@russianriver.com

SFAF: They got Gershwin

A concert this Sunday, September 27 in celebration of George Gershwin's music, featuring composer and conductor Sir André Previn, will benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS.

Previn is the composer of the opera *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which the San Francisco Opera premiered last week.

"We Got Rhythm: George Gershwin Centennial Celebration Featuring André Previn and David Finck" will begin at 7 p.m. at the Ira and Lenore S. Gershwin Theater, University of San Francisco, on Turk Street at Masonic. Concert tickets are \$35 or, for those wishing to attend a special reception, \$75. Call (415) 487-3060 for more information. ▼

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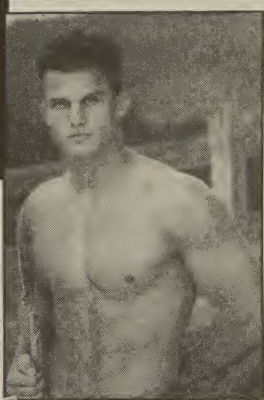


Photo: Steven Underhill

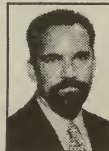
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OPEN FORUM

Shooting Starr

We know that many people have come to San Francisco this weekend for the carefree fun of the Folsom Street Fair, and would like to find a haven away from the relentless Monica Lewinsky matter. But we figure if Clintonergate doesn't tie in with the Folsom Street Fair — concerning, as it does, blowjobs, cigars, and public humiliation — what does?

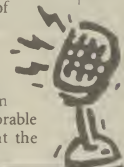
Flippant tone aside, the continued flogging of Bill Clinton does have a lot to do with this weekend: it is (despite what salivating Republicans say) all about sex, not at all about "perjury," and the forces who want to shut Clinton down are the same forces who would like to shut down the fair, shut down gay bars and baths and anywhere else we congregate, criminalize all sexual activity outside traditional male-female monogamous marriage, burn our books, deny us our Internet access, and imprison many of our heroes. They would, if they could, attempt to identify anybody who was infected with HIV through sex (as opposed to those "innocent victims" they yammer about). Next step would be quarantine, at least.

Of course, as a growing number of letter-writers point out, there is an element of poetic justice to Clinton's troubles, considering how he, too, has attempted to block others' sexual freedoms; still, we can find nothing gratifying about so many terrible legal precedents — the destruction of attorney-client privilege, subpoenaing bookstore sales records, televising supposedly "secret" grand jury testimony, to name just three — since those are all designed to protect everyone and when they fall for the president they also fall for the rest of the country. No matter how badly Bill Clinton may have screwed us (note to Ken Starr: We mean that metaphorically!) we have to back him against the people who are out to get him.

Half a century ago the far right gained a foothold in Europe with trumped-up charges of a fire in Germany's parliament building; this time, on this side of the Atlantic, they are aggressively following the same plan of action except it's fornication instead of arson, and it's the Oval Office instead of the Reichstag. No gay person with half a brain would want to live under fascism, whether it's German or American, so it's up to every gay person to fight it whenever it rears its ugly head.

We wonder how many of the people in the independent prosecutor's office really believed they were doing God's work — "The

road to Hell is paved with good intentions," Mom used to say — when they started. By now it's clear that they are blinded by partisanship and crazed from the smell of fear in the air, and unable or unwilling to recognize the problems they're causing. Starr has said he is motivated by his resentment of any attempt to defile the temple of truth, but that's not the temple to which he's holding a gun these days. And "truth" is obviously of secondary concern, considering the way he scrupulously edited from his final report any testimony favorable to Clinton. (We've never bought the quote anyway, since there are outstanding questions about whether he passed untruths for clients that funneled millions of dollars into his bank account, GM and Big Tobacco.) We think it's obvious that as he's firing at Bill Clinton — and endangering innocent bystanders with virtually every volley — he's also gunning to be the next Supreme Court justice. The scariest thing is that if he succeeds in destroying the Democrats' chance of controlling either the legislative or executive branch, he will almost certainly get the post he wants. Think about that.



Editorial

The crowds who have come to San Francisco for the Folsom Fair must help to ensure that does not happen. If you are one of those visiting from out of town, we hope you'll return to your home full of resolve to stop the Republican onslaught. It may be hard work to get sensible people elected in your region, but it'll be easier by far than trying to undo more damage inflicted by hate-crazed fundies and their minions. Remind your friends and neighbors (not just the gay ones) that the majority of people have denounced Starr's tactics and continue to say that he's destroying the country he was appointed to protect. He is behaving less like a college dean than a Mafia don, and it's time he was stopped and (along with those who have pushed him along) punished.

No matter how hard Starr and the Republicans try, they can never make America into a chaste society, or a completely truthful society, or a perfect society. All they can do is make it a suspicious society.

Thanks anyway, we'd rather stick with the blowjobs and cigar sex.

Enjoy the fair. ▼



The Blessed Virgin and the blessed gay Pentecostal

by Reverend Tom Polcari

What would you do if a friend told you she went and saw some strange visions in the desert, and that if you went, the same thing could happen to you, too? The truth is, that's what happened to me: on August 13 I dropped everything, like a prospector heading off to a gold rush, and headed for the Mojave desert on the chance that I, like her, might actually see a vision or miracle of some sort.

Oh, I've seen other miracles in my life — things that defy scientific explanation — but I had to see if one of my radio station engineers here at KUSF 90.3 FM was on the level or not. (For those who don't know me, I'm into my sixth year of my program, called *Pastor Tom Live* — a truly gay friendly radio ministry. You can hear my personal experiences weekly on Saturday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. on KUSF, the Jesuit University of San Francisco's very own radio station. They have welcomed a gay minister on their station with open arms. Times are changing.)

Without going into a travelogue, let me just say that on the morning of August 13, at 11:45 a.m., at a place not far from Edwards Air Force Base, a cloud formation appeared in the sunny desert sky — seen by myself and

a small group of Hispanic Catholics — in a surprising and puzzling image of the Blessed Mother Mary holding an infant child.

After 10 minutes or so, the image drifted away, then came the light show. That's right: green and blue circles appeared around the sun at high noon, filtering the light coming down on us like a stained glass window. It was no rainbow. I've seen dozens of those. These were circular bands of colored light, unlike anything I've ever seen before. Sounds like something from the Sci Fi channel.

I called the staff of Maria Paulo, the female minister of the monthly desert meeting, and was told that each month, on the 13th, only a small percentage of those in attendance at the gathering ever see the visions. Apparently, some — but not all — are gifted or blessed by God to see these.

Why? I'm not sure, but it does take faith to believe it can happen.

What intrigues me is that the Virgin Mary makes her grand appearance to a gay Pentecostal radio preacher. My listeners know I don't claim to be holy, or a goody-two-shoes. Wouldn't you think she would

go for someone with big bucks, a regular in *People* magazine, or perhaps a star in *Titanic*, like that handsome boy, Leonardo DiCaprio? Or how about a big vision in the sky for Madonna, or President Clinton?

Apparently, the gay issue never crossed her mind, unlike the Boy Scouts. Maybe the gay issue wasn't important to her. What if the Virgin takes a liking to gay men — at least we would have something in common. Who knows, maybe Mary takes a liking to lesbians too. Hey, aren't we all God's children? The light show around the sun was just one more proof to me, and a few others, that someone up there, really cares and is trying to make a statement.

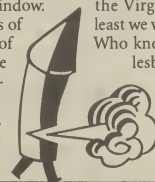
To be honest, it was rewarding and satisfying enough to go back again

— perhaps on a cooler October 13 this time. I want just one more reassurance; one more confirmation; one more report to validate that she, Mary, or God Himself is for real.

Is it wrong to seek out proof? Maybe, since faith (believing without seeing), not proof, is what God is looking for.

Anyone planning to attend one of these services can get information by calling Thelma at (760) 373-3773. ▼

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Leather compassion

Once again the leather community has shown its pride and compassion. On behalf of myself and my fellow Leather Pride Walk co-producers, Kelly Showers and John Currier, I would like to thank the walkers for raising \$11,000. Without you all this would not have been possible. Bless you all.

Besides the walkers, I would like to thank the people that helped use make the Leather Pride Walk '98 possible: Art Tomaszewski, the founder of Leather Pride Walk, who raised the most money. Donna Sachet and Brian Benamati for the wonderful job they did performing during the walk. Greg Yedding for the artwork for the poster. David Spear for the graphics and the posters, John Eby for his time and the use of his truck. Robert Schmidt for the wonderful sound and equipment. To the flag bearers and Richard and Emlyn. To Peter Fiske for the time and effort at the beer bust/auction, plus all the other guys who helped there. To the Powerhouse for the pins, again. To Image Leather and A Taste Of Leather and Pleasure Pumps for the auction items. To the Grand Duke and Duchess for their support and partaking in the walk, as well as the Imperial Court. To the guys handling the pledges for the AIDS Emergency Fund: John, and Alan Selby, and Rick Salinas. To Daddy's Bar and the staff as well as the Powerhouse and staff and The Eagle Tavern and staff and the *Leather Lexicon*. To Mr. Marcus and Barry Rogers, and the San Francisco police for the wonderful job they did.

Lets do it again next year. It was a great success due to you all and would not have been so without you. Let's make it bigger and better. God bless you all.

Grant Dupont
Co-Producer, Leather Pride Walk
San Francisco

No change

I see that the "Don't Give Change" campaign hasn't worked on Castro Street. Most of the stores have removed the signs. The homeless, the beggars, doorway and sidewalk sleepers have remained in about the same numbers.

I, too, wish there was an easy fix to the problem of the homeless, the social and economic forces that force people onto the streets are not faced by the political and business community of our city. We in the churches and social agencies can only supply Band-Aids to seeping wounds.

Robert Warren Cromey
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church
San Francisco

Drugs are means, not ends

Some readers are bitter about my criticism of the drug nomads in the Haight and the Castro. They say I've betrayed my own earlier writings on drug use in native societies. But the critics are wrong. I've always said that native societies use drugs as part of a larger pattern of nature worship and social meaning. The natives cherish the very things that the drug nomads disdain - rootedness in the earth, respect for community, and spiritual maturity.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

I lean to deification

From where I sit, Eileen Hansen is a goddess. It seems to me she has practically single-handedly been fighting discrimination of the HIV population without a lot of help for a long time.

I hear that a bill has made it through the legislature that will keep us HIV-positives from being reported. How did she do that? I wonder if there's another state around that has pulled off such a piece de resistance. Probably not, unless they have such a goddess as we do because it certainly ain't the norm. Does she not get enough credit because she's a lesbian? Too bad. How do lesbians feel about their feet being kissed? Maybe the guv will pay more attention to her - hope it. Go girl!

Jon Blacken
San Francisco

Don't promote violence

A comment on heterosexuals and gay violence. At the Gay Freedom Parade and concert that was held in front of City Hall, one of your better lesbian bands was belting out some songs and in between numbers they were asking people, "What's the gayest thing you've ever done?"

To which one of their own said, "A couple of weeks ago some straight guy said something about my tits so I went off and beat the living crap out of him!"

To which I said to myself and any others who were listening, "What's the gayest thing you've ever done?"

Well, the answer to that was fairly simple.

"I never beat up anybody."

Tommy Africa
San Francisco

Favorite Sun candidate

Since Tom Ammiano was the only supervisor to vote for a strengthened "Sunshine" ordinance, perhaps he is the only supervisor who deserves our votes in November. The Sunshine law would have given us a much clearer view of decision-making processes in City Hall by making it all more open to the public. The mayor was against the ordinance, and by coincidence, so were all the other supervisors.

You really have to wonder what they all have to hide. And you also have to wonder where were the other gay supervisors when Tom was the only one with the guts to vote for the ordinance.

Perhaps they were peeking out of Willie Brown's hip pocket.

Larry Robinson
San Francisco

That's entertainment ... not

The Entertainment Zone Proposal introduced by Supervisor Gavin Newsom (or is it nuisance?) is both unfair to South of Market residents and completely insane. The current 45 decibel loudness level limit of the nightclubs is loud enough! Supervisor Newsom now wants to raise it to 85. How are current residents, particularly in the 11th Street and Folsom area supposed to get any sleep? Supervisor Newsom's proposal also calls for future residential buildings to be made soundproof by the landlords of such buildings. What about the current residents? Who is going to soundproof our buildings? Landlords are not going to soundproof existing residential buildings for free. They will simply raise our rents! There are many residents with fixed incomes in the SoMa area, how are they to afford rent hikes? I also oppose Supervisor Newsom's proposal since it is likely to increase the street violence, particularly anti-gay and lesbian violence, in this area. With the nightclubs having carte blanc treatment, our neighborhood will be prone to street violence and no doubt, bring in more substance abuse. Clearly, this Entertainment Zone Proposal threatens our homes and our neighborhood.

Supervisor Newsom (yes it is nuisance) is a mistake on the Board of Supervisors. Why would a supervisor introduce a proposal that threatens the residential portion of a neighborhood? Could it be a tradeoff for big time campaign money? Today it is South of Market, will it be your neighborhood next? Voters beware! Remember this when you go to the polls in November: "Nightclub" Newsom has to go!

Jesús Barragán
San Francisco

Money does not equal winning

I am writing in response to your article in the August 27 paper entitled "Gay Man Gets \$45,000 in City College HIV Discrimination Suit." As general counsel for the San Francisco Community College District (City College) and the only person interviewed on behalf of City College for the article, I feel it is incumbent upon me to make some critical clarifications regarding several of the statements in the article. As published, the article is not accurate.

First, Mr. Costa's case was resolved by a mutual settlement agreement. To say he was the "lawsuit winner" is opinion. The purpose of this settlement was to bring an end to the litigation process. In exchange, the parties gave up their right to have a judge or a jury decide who was the "winner."

Second, all of the case-related "facts" included in the article are drawn from Mr. Costa's complaint or statements made by his lawyer at the time the complaint was filed. Due to the settlement, the court did not and will not determine whether any of Mr. Costa's claims were true. City College filed an answer to the complaint denying that any unlawful or discriminatory activity took place as to Mr. Costa.

Finally, City College was not "unwilling to enter into negotiations" as stated in the article. The settlement took place at a court-ordered settlement conference on July 31, 1998. The settlement conference had been scheduled for several months and City College cooperated with the court and Mr. Costa at all times in connection with the conference.

Due to an agreement between the parties, the parties are not permitted to discuss this lawsuit or the settlement agreement beyond an agreed upon press release. The district obtained Mr. Costa's attorney's permission to send this letter, with the understanding that Mr. Costa does not share the views expressed herein. Further, Dean Rita Jones has never been interviewed by any newspaper in connection with the lawsuit.

Ronald Lee
General counsel
San Francisco Community College District

[Editor's note: If Mr. Costa had been ordered to pay City College \$45,000, we'd probably have called City College the winner. You probably would, too.]

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Impeachment with honor

Clinton should resign the presidency immediately, and, failing that, Congress should remove him. Not because he had an affair with an intern — I couldn't care less with whom he sleeps. Rather, because he banked his entire defense on a belief that no one should ask his private business, and if someone asks, he and Ms. Lewinsky should not tell. "Don't ask, don't tell." Sound familiar? In another context, this policy is failing to protect scores of people's careers in the military — yet he called the policy "honorable." Let him live with some honor, then, and hold himself to the same policy.

Not convinced? Let me remind you that this is also the president who signed the Defense of Marriage Act into law, ostensibly to protect heterosexual marriage from gay and lesbian marriage. Despite the fact that he egregiously misjudged from whom his own marriage needs defending, he obviously believes that private matters of sexuality are worthy of congressional and presidential interventions. If marriage needs to be "defended" by federal law, let the defense begin.

Jaime R. Balboa
Executive Director
Center for Social Research and Education
San Francisco

Morality isn't relative

I'm disturbed by the letters by Armand Boulay and Art Alcantar. The idea of "relative morality" seems to be the basis of your arguments. Relative to what? Are you making decisions based on the "the lesser of the evils" axiom? Okay, let's exaggerate the choices: Richard Nixon or Joseph McCarthy? Charles Manson or Ted Kaczynski? Lorena Bobbitt or Marv Albert? Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden? Jack the Ripper or Jeffrey Dahmer? Lesser? Greater? Your call.

As for Clinton's "friendship" to the gay community? Great. I'm gay — and black, and as a gay black man, I see things differently. Bill Clinton has not greatly helped blacks (in fact, he annihilated Lani Guinier after he nominated her). And gays in the military? Your call.

The idea that being a politician means that you are bereft of moral competence is all but saying that the Constitution of the United States is a corrupt, worthless document. You'd better hope not; that's what protects gay people (sometimes). And it was written by politicians — you know, those "lying politicians." Shall we do away with it — and Jefferson, Hancock, et al? Your call.

Where was the outcry for (black) Sergeant Major Gene McKinney, who was tried in court earlier this year for having sex with six women and could have been jailed for 55 years. His and Clinton's cases were identical. After all, it was his "private life," right? Well, the U.S. Army disagreed — completely. The dichotomy of inconsistent justice repulses me — and is unarguably racist in tone. Have you even considered the racial inequality in the two cases? Someone said to me recently, "There's a big difference. One is the president." This person's attitude seemed to be that Clinton is more deserving of "justice" because he's president. It's not uncommon thinking, but it is warped thinking. Why? Because it espouses an inequality so powerful as to cause people to not want to be bothered with even differentiating between equal justice for the president of the United States, and a man of lesser rank. I call this the "David-Cash-I-didn't-know-this-little-girl-so-her-death's-not-important-to-me" attitude. The same attitude by Germans that got 6,000,000 Jews killed under Hitler's reign; the attitude that allowed whites to witness the lynchings of 10,000+; the attitude that allowed the harassment of women demanding equality; the attitude of so many Americans that allows for 600+ gay bashings a year. Nope, can't be bothered. Too annoying to me. Wish it'd go away. Wish "they'd" go away. Do you like that attitude? Your call.

For me, Clinton's crime wasn't the sex, it was the lies he propagated to the point that he's smeared over a six-year period Gennifer Flowers, Monica Lewinsky, and Kathleen Willey. He merely sabotaged the careers of Lani Guinier (a black woman) and Zoe Baird (among others). Is this the kind of "friend" you keep company with? Your call.

"Accepting responsibility," as I understand it, means accepting the consequences of your misdeeds. Clinton must accept the consequences of his actions, period. Otherwise, as many parents have noted, the message we're sending here is that you can devastate others and just walk away from it, and that it's acceptable (a la David Cash) to witness someone harming someone and not intervene or simply call out for help. Which is the "lesser" of these two evils? Your call.

Declining to accept unacceptable behavior by others (even your friends) doesn't make you judgmental. It merely establishes that you are developing a solid, admirable value system — one that can only improve your life by making you smart enough to know when to say "enough." Your (most important) call. Remember, in the end, you reap what you sowed.

Glen McLeod
San Francisco

Safe sex poster child

It's official now. The president has had extra-marital sex in the White House.

Twenty-some years ago, the first lady, Betty Ford, was improperly using drugs and alcohol in the White House. Because of her exemplary handling of the problem, she has become a poster child for dealing with these matters.

Similarly, the president, with his staining of the dress ("On me, not in me") and his use of a dildo (albeit a nicotine-filled one) deserves to become a poster child for the practice of safe sex.

Adam York
Oakland, CA

Cut Clinton loose

I concur with your op-ed piece, "Change isn't always growth" (B.A.R. 9/18/98), concerning the conservative moral political rancor in Washington (from both sides of the political aisle) that was spawned by the release of independent prosecutor Ken Starr's report on the personal life of Bill Clinton. How absurd that Starr's \$40 million taxpayer funded investigation that started by investigating the Whitewater fiasco ended up finding a smoking political gun in Bill Clinton's pants — with constitutional implications including obstruction of justice and lying under oath, no less! This kind of judicial charade and morality play could only have been crafted by the sexually unliberated mind of that son-of-a-fire-and-brimstone-preacher Ken Starr. In coming weeks, we will undoubtedly be overexposed to self-serving political remonstrations by both the Democrats and Republicans seeking political advantage on stupid moral issues. To the Washington merry-go-round, I yawn, yawn, yawn.

But as someone committed to pleasure and hedonistic immorality since I reached puberty 30 years ago, I feel that we, the keepers of the immoral flame, must ask the obverse question: Is Clinton worth making a big fuss about? I personally dislike this man because he never was an ardent supporter of civil liberties, immorality, or sexual liberation. He signed the Communications Decency Act (declared unconstitutional) and actively supported the development of the Clipper chip, both of which are and will bring "big brother" to the Internet and World Wide Web, and ultimately into our personal lives.

He also demanded the resignation of his own choice for Surgeon General, Joycelyn Elders, because she was discussing needle exchange and masturbation in public. Clinton is a shady political animal who hasn't got the guts to confront the mores of conservatives in America and say that he enjoyed every minute of his sexual escapades with Monica Lewinsky. Bill "I puffed but did not inhale marijuana" Clinton is not a bold and dynamic leader embracing progressive change, but rather a two-faced milktoast brittly tied to the conventions of the conservative status quo.

If Clinton can no longer lead or bring a modicum of progressive change to the social and moral fabric of America or our fast changing world, then who needs him. I personally cannot put-up with his pleas for forgiveness and understanding, nor his appeal to prayer. Faust would not be pleased. Cut Clinton loose!

Dan Medynski
Mountain View, CA

No information Boxer

Before everyone reads global significance into Barbara Boxer's re-election troubles, I think they should consider as a factor in her close race her failure to deliver basic constituent service. I am tired of contacting her office and receiving no response.

The causes I have contacted Senator Boxer about are mundane. Most recently I e-mailed, wrote, and telephoned her about my frustration with airline service and their hub monopolies. After sending each message I waited weeks, received no response, and tried another approach. But, even phoning didn't work. It's been a couple of months since a woman in Boxer's San Francisco office said that I would receive a reply from the airline issue person in the Washington office.

Messages very similar to the ones I sent to Boxer were answered quickly by both Senator Feinstein and Representative Pelosi. Even though neither of those women face tough election battles, they have a staff organized to respond to citizen input. The contrast between the Boxer silence and the Feinstein/Pelosi acknowledgments means something to me. Moreover, the current Boxer void mirrors my experience writing to her once or twice a year over the last six years.

Before loyal Democrats start wringing their hands about Boxer's close race and what the situation means for President Clinton or liberalism or whatever, they should chill out. There is no place in the public opinion polls to say, "She's good on certain high profile issues, but she doesn't listen to me." But, it is important to me that our senators and representatives listen, weigh the opinions of their constituency, and react.

Galen B. Workman
San Francisco

Gray and Dan on gays

by Wayne Friday

Most gay and lesbian political observers, Democrat and Republican alike, will presumably tell you Democratic gubernatorial nominee Lieutenant Governor **Gray Davis** has it all over Republican **Dan Lungren** when it comes to supporting gay rights, but when a reader recently wrote me that he didn't see "a nickel's worth of difference between the two" I felt a bit of history on the subject might be in order.

Lungren, as a member of Congress, voted consistently against any gay rights legislation; supported Proposition 6 (prohibiting gay teachers in the state); and has always backed homophobic Republicans like ex-Representative **Robert Dornan** and former Representative **William Dannemeyer**. Davis, on the other hand, has a record of supporting the rights of gays and lesbians. While serving as former Governor **Jerry Brown's** chief of staff, Davis shepherded through numerous gay and lesbian judicial appointments, such as those of **Herb Donaldson** and **Mary Morgan**. As state controller, Davis wrote the legislation that provided a tax credit for AIDS vaccine development research, and while serving as state controller, he had well-known San Francisco gay activist **Scott Shafer** as his statewide chief of staff.

Indeed, throughout his public career, Davis has knowingly hired numerous high level gay and lesbian staff people. In contrast, those close to Lungren are hard pressed to name a single known gay or lesbian staff person that Lungren hired while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives or during his two terms as state attorney general.

Additionally, when Governor **Pete Wilson** went all out a few months ago twisting the arms of U.C. Board of Regents members to prevent a vote extending domestic partners benefits to U.C. staff members, Davis's vote for the plan made the difference in passing the domestic partners plan as Wilson was defeated by a 13-12 vote.

The *San Jose Mercury News* recently asked both Lungren and Davis two questions pertaining to gay issues. We are reprinting both the questions and the answers Lungren and Davis supplied, so readers can make up their own minds where they feel the two men stand.

Question: Would you sign legislation allowing gays and lesbians to marry?

Davis's answer: "I am the only candidate for governor with a long-term track record supporting gay and lesbian rights; including the rights of couples who love and support each other. The question of same-gender marriage is a more difficult one, but as governor, I would continue to lead the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Working with the community, I would seek not only to ensure wider acceptance of committed same-gender couples, but to expand society's definition of the legal benefits available to those relationships. I believe that if legislation is passed in the near future to recognize same-sex marriages, it will likely

be met with a severe conservative backlash, and an accompanying ballot measure like 187 or 209 designed to take back any and all rights gays and lesbians have fought for years to gain. Therefore, I recommend caution as we proceed on this issue."

Lungren's answer to the same question: "No."

Question: Do you believe homosexuality is a sin?

Lungren: "I think the teachings of the church and Christianity are pretty clear on that. Not the predisposition or the declaration or the belief or the identification of one as a homosexual, that's not a sin. It is the act itself. I believe what the Bible tells me, which is hate the sin and love the sinner."

Davis: "All I know is that in my church, Good Shepherd, there are homosexual parishioners who are very welcome. I take a very pragmatic approach to life. I want to allow every human being to make a positive contribution while they're on this planet. So I would fight against any form of discrimination that precludes them from

doing so. I believe there's a lot of scientific evidence that suggests that homosexuality is not a question of choice; it's a question of genetic predetermination. And there is no sin without free will."

It should be said here that both Davis and Lungren are of the Catholic faith. Do their answers on the subject clarify their positions? Lungren willingly says that public policy should be shaped by religious sensibilities. Therefore, I argue that Davis should be all gay and lesbian citizens' choice for governor, regardless of which political party we belong to.

Feinstein boosts Boxer

When California Senator **Dianne Feinstein** appeared as the featured guest on CNN's *Larry King Live* last week to discuss the sorry **Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky** saga, she took advantage of the national TV exposure to plug fellow senator **Barbara Boxer** in a very big way; Feinstein, undoubtedly the state's most popular politician, made an impassioned plea for Boxer's reelection, saying that "Barbara has worked very hard for this state, is one of the Senate's most effective members, and it is important that California send her back to Washington."

When both Feinstein and Boxer ran for the Senate in 1992, Feinstein, far ahead in the polls, actually urged last minute donors to her own campaign to contribute to Boxer instead because that race was so close; consequently, many people credit her as

one of the main reasons that Boxer won that contest. A Feinstein aide recently told me that while "Dianne is getting pleas from Democratic candidates from other states for appearances on a daily basis," she really feels that Barbara's re-election is very, very important and plans to "do everything she can for Senator Boxer right through Election Day."

Numerous statewide polls have Boxer in a very tight race with her Republican opponent **Matt Fong** (who has also expressed the above-mentioned belief that gays are "sinners"), and Feinstein this week again urged her supporters to "make sure we pull Barbara through to victory on November 3."

The gubernatorial and Senate races aren't the only ones where fundy religious beliefs are evident. In the supposedly "non-partisan" race for state Superintendent of Public Instruction, incumbent **Delaine Eastin** is facing a conservative opponent with some interesting connections. Voters should be interested to know that her opponent, **Gloria Tuchman**, received approximately 70 percent of her campaign funds for the June primary from ultra-conservative **Howard F. Ahmanson**.

Ahmanson has generously contributed to numerous right wing think tanks, the most noteworthy of which is the think tank Chancedon. It was founded by the Reverend **R. J. Rushdoony**, a Calvinist who runs a Reconstructionist Christian school in the Sierra Foothills. Rushdoony has written that the Holocaust has been "overstated," and that anyone who says that six million Jews were killed is committing the sin of bearing false witness. Further, according to a July, 1996 *L.A. Times* story, Rushdoony believes that the death penalty is warranted for anyone who is promiscuous, gay, or adulterous.

As for Ahmanson, being the sugar daddy of Tuchman's primary campaign isn't enough; he also gave at least \$30,000 to the "Californians for the Defense of Marriage," the effort by homophobic Assemblyman **Pete Knight's** to pass an initiative to ban gay marriage in the year 2000. Ahmanson also has been a major funder of several of the organizations that sponsored the recent nationwide anti-gay advertising campaign, and he also gave \$25,000 in support of Colorado's Amendment 2.

Take a good look at his choice to command the state's schools, Tuchman; political candidates, like all other people, are known by the company they keep. Candidate Tuchman clearly has close friends who don't like us; it is important that all of us - Democrat and Republican alike - vote on November 3 to re-elect Eastin as state Superintendent of Public Instruction. ▽



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The Wall Street Journal

4/23/98

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9/98

Scientific American report: heavy sarcasm, low-lying irony

by Sharon Shaw Johnson,
GLAAD publications
manager

Television evangelist and sometime presidential candidate Pat Robertson, Steve Mirsky writes in the September *Scientific American*, "added meteorology to the list of sciences about which he has theories—and few facts." In June, Robertson predicted that Orlando, Florida, could be a likely target for "earthquakes, tornadoes and possibly a meteor" because the city had not objected to the Gay Days at Disney celebration and was considering allowing lesbian and gay groups to fly rainbow flags in honor of Pride Month. Mirsky, tongue planted firmly in cheek, suggests that Robertson, who could be considered "an expert on hot air masses," might want to add weather reports "as a regular feature on his 700 Club broadcasts, launching into something like this: ... Continued homosexual activity in the large cities of the East Coast and, of course, San Francisco, will initiate a severe low-pressure front with associated torrentially heavy rains late in the day. Look for heavy flooding, especially in theater districts."

Mirsky concludes by noting, "In the interest of an evenhanded attack on wacky ideas, I'd like to point out the obvious fact that no religious group has a monopoly on them. Some of the more vocal members of some groups, however, do have their own broadcast outlets. ... The good news is that such spokespeople serve the larger purpose of reminding everyone of the simple and profound words written by [naturalist Stephen] Gould: 'The enemy of knowledge and science is irrationalism, not religion.' Amen."

Please thank the *Scientific American* for running Mirsky's satirical piece. In a journal not usually known for its humor, Mirsky provides a much-needed perspective on religious-political extremists' recent attacks.

Contact Ms. Michelle Press, Managing Editor, *Scientific American*, 415 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017-1179, fax: 212.355.6245, e-mail: editors@sciam.com (please be sure to include address and daytime phone number when writing).

Two pieces on a TG pianist show insight, compassion

Setting the scene for a richly detailed profile, the subtitle of Andrew Jacobs's September 13 *New York Times Magazine* feature reads: "This week, after years of confusion, torment and hormone treatments, the concert pianist David Buechner performs for the first time as Sara. But the question remains, Will his fans and peers accept her?" In "His Debut as a Woman," Jacobs uses Sara's experiences as a springboard for a detailed examination not only of Sara's own transitioning process, but also of the classical music in-

dustry and of the transgender community. Describing her as "surely the nation's first concert pianist to undergo a mid-career sex change," Jacobs notes Sara's formidable accomplishments from her life as David, including appearances with leading orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, an extensive discography, and numerous international prizes. But Jacobs reports that, "As word of his gender reassignment spread through the close-knit classical music world, Buechner ... began to endure a string of rejections."

Jacobs continues, "Some have hinted that Buechner's decision to orchestrate the coming out with the help of a publicist suggests an awareness of its career-boosting potential, a way of rising above the crowd." But Sara asks, "Why would I ruin friendships and devastate my family for some dubious gain? It just goes to show you how cynical and bitter the classical music world is." Jacobs then presents mostly accurate facts about the transgender community: examining the stigmatization which transgender people face, pointing out that the transgender community encompasses a diversity of people, and citing prominent transgender leaders, including Ricki Anne Wilchins and Jamison Green.

Jacobs relays Buechner's two primary frustrations: That "no matter how great I play, the first line in my obituary will invariably read, 'Sara Buechner, the transsexual pianist,'" and the fact that her parents do not accept her. Towards the end of the piece, Jacobs recounts Sara's last performance as David: "When the audience rose to applaud and demand an encore, Buechner played an especially sentimental rendition of the Gershwin standard 'The Man I Love,' a private tribute, she says, to the passing of David. After the concert, she left his clothing behind."

Buechner was also the subject of the September 16 "Cover Story" on *Entertainment Tonight* (ET). Introduced by Mary Hart, the segment features extensive on-screen time with Buechner, including clips of her performing. As with the *New York Times Magazine* piece, Sara's story was presented without sensationalism, but instead, with sensitivity and a demonstrated commitment to educating audiences. In addition, ET, which won the 1998 GLAAD Media Award for Television Journalism, continued its tradition of giving prominence to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community issues and presented a compassionate look at Buechner's experiences.

Please thank the *New York Times Magazine* and *Entertainment Tonight* for their candor and compassion in sharing Sara's story.

Contact Mr. Adam Moss, Editor, *New York Times Magazine*, 229 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036-3959; and Mr. Glenn

Meehan, Managing Editor, *Entertainment Tonight*, 5555 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, fax: 323.862.4954, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.etonline.com>.

Utne Reader tackles gender

The cover of September's *Utne Reader* asks: "It's 2 a.m. Do You Know What Sex You Are? Does Anybody?" *Utne* then devotes seven features to the exploration of gender identity in our society. They cover a spectrum of viewpoints, from looking at the role of genetics and hormones in the development of the sex of a fetus, to the ways in which peer pressure enforces "appropriate" gender behavior in children. One of the articles, "Drag Net," is written by Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor Sherry Turkle, noted author of *Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*. In "Drag Net," Turkle looks at the current phenomenon of "virtual gender" on the Internet, or the ramifications of the ability to present as a different gender in online communications. Two articles look at lesbians who are defying stereotypes by expressing their feminine gender identity. The package concludes with an overview of some of the more famous gender-benders throughout history and a "gender-aptitude" quiz excerpted from Kate Bornstein's *My Gender Workbook*.

The articles look at the various ways in which gender is being deconstructed and reinterpreted in America today. Regrettably, the *Utne Reader* does not effectively put these perspectives into the larger context of a transgender political/social movement in ways that would truly have made the collection remarkable. In "The Gender Blur," for example, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Deborah Blum discusses the biological implication of genetics and hormones and the various resulting medical conditions which can produce ambiguous physical traits that make sex determination difficult. But the article does not mention the growing political movement of Intersex people. In fact, aside from the excerpt from Bornstein's book, none of the articles mention any of the leading spokespeople of the transgender movement.

Please let the *Utne Reader* know how much you appreciate their attention to the changing role of gender in our society, and thank them for using the works of fair-minded writers to bring the issues to light. In addition, encourage them to continue this discussion and ask them to include more interviews, quotes and perspectives from transgender persons and organizations in the future. Let them know they missed an opportunity here to give readers a unique and highly informed perspective on an important emerging issue.

Contact Mr. Craig Cox, Managing Editor, *The Utne Reader*, 1624 Harmon Place, Minneapolis, MN 55403-1906, fax: 612.338.6043, e-mail: cc@utne.com.

Pro-youth gay web guild celebrates first anniversary

by Lionel A. Biron

In the past 12 months, the International Guild of Gay Webmasters (IGGW) has grown from 11 members to over 1,600 members worldwide in 55 countries. IGGW has weathered its growing pains due in great part to the dedication and philosophy of its founder Ernest Gaudreau, who serves as its executive director and the treasurer of San Francisco Local 001.

From a computer in his one-bedroom Noe Valley apartment, Gaudreau, a self-taught webmaster, created a fee-free independent organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the interests of lesbian and gay webmasters on the Internet. One reason for the organization's phenomenal growth is that it has relied entirely on volunteers and small contributions, rather than on membership dues to support its operations.

"Dues would have severely limited our membership and raised questions concerning our real intent," Gaudreau says. "I wanted to make sure no one was left out — and also demonstrate that IGGW was not a Internet scam."

On February 15, IGGW received its first application from a minor, a 14-year-old gay webmaster from New York. Gaudreau originally intended to reject this application, fearing that teen members might be unduly exposed to the adult sites of many of the guild's webmasters. But when the youth's comments on his application indicated that he fully expected to be rejected because of his age, the guild took this as a challenge.

Would IGGW reject members out of hand simply because of their age, or would it accept, educate and guide gay and questioning teens? It was decided to not only accept the teenager's membership, but also to develop programs specifically geared towards teens.

The decision proved to be a boon for the guild when this particularly gifted young New Yorker was appointed teen advisor, a non-voting member of the board of directors, at the same time as the first women's advisor was appointed. The 14-year-old so impressed the other members of the board with his communication skills, enthusiasm, and contribution to projects, that he was given full voting membership on the board of directors when the first vacancy occurred.

In addition, a Teen Local 017 was created for all members under 18, and a Teen Safety and Service Award was introduced to recognize outstanding teens and teen-oriented sites to complement IGGW's prestigious Black Claw Award (conferred upon those individuals, organizations, or web pages which have made significant contributions to web page design and/or to the community at large).

Functions key

One of the functions of the guild is to protect its members and the general public from unethical or illegal Internet activity of members and non-members alike. Although still in its formative stages, the Conflict Resolution Program has already established its reputation as skillful arbiter of disputes regarding copyright violations and child pornography.

IGGW has helped several professional photographers and gay businesses, such as Falcon Studios, claim their copyrights.

Many webmasters misunderstand copyright laws, and IGGW has demonstrated its leadership in educating them on this increasingly important Internet issue — the right to control one's own intellectual property. Several claims over original photographs, video images, and published articles have been successfully arbitrated in the past year.

The guild responds vigorously to all complaints it receives of child pornography.

A formal e-mail is sent to webmasters of these sites requesting proof, in compliance with federal statute, that the models in question are at least 18 years of age. If no satisfactory response is received, IGGW submits the site's URL to Nick the Llama's Anti-Child Pornography Web Site at <http://www.nickthellama.com/campaign>, which reports Internet child pornography to the FBI, or to U.S. or Canadian Customs.

IGGW also serves as a watchdog for Internet scams, investigating all complaints received from customers against commercial sites including services paid for but not provided, problems with refunds, and automatic credit card renewals. In one case, the IGGW membership of a webmaster with an adult site was suspended and not reinstated until he had contacted the customer and resolved the problem to the guild's satisfaction.

The guild's effective pro bono program helps very small nonprofits both with website design and execution. Volunteers are provided from a list of local webmasters who offer their services at no cost to the organizations.

Forty percent of the members have personal non-adult sites, 25 percent run non-adult commercial sites, and the remaining 35 percent are adult sites. IGGW does not discriminate on the basis of site content, providing it is legal.

Membership drive on the info superhighway

Although lesbians are currently underrepresented with less than 100 members, they are eagerly welcomed and encouraged to participate. Web designers are also welcomed. The organization even includes a few gay-friendly straight webmasters. Membership is open to anyone who has a web page and can abide by the bylaws of the organization. An associate membership is even available for one year

to anyone without a web page.

Over the past few months, the guild has started to create a local chapter system, whereby members in selected geographic areas can meet, network, and grow. The networking alone has already proved to be of great benefit and has created an effective means of sharing business information such as identifying gay-friendly banks and ISPs (Internet Service Providers).

In spite of its early accomplishments, the new Communications and Decency Act aimed at commercial sites suggests the most important reason for IGGW's existence may still lie ahead, when it could be called on to fight right wing attacks over constitutional issues.

However, the immediate challenge facing IGGW is its reorganization as a nonprofit corporation in order to secure funds to develop educational programs and benefits packages for its members. A number of inquiries have already been made about corporate sponsorships from gay and straight businesses, but they are all on hold until assistance can be found to establish the nonprofit status.

Anyone interested in joining in this effort should contact the guild at <http://www.iggw.org>.

Victor A. Barcellona, DDS

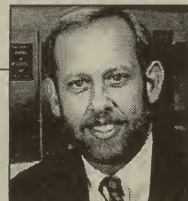
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A lesbian with (golf) balls

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Pre-eminent American athlete Babe Didrikson Zaharias dies of cancer in Florida, September 27, 1956.

Patty Sheehan and Muffin Spencer-Devlin, golfers on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour, made headlines in the 1990s by coming out as lesbians. In contrast, in the 1930s Babe Didrikson Zaharias, founder of the LPGA and one of the greatest athletes in America's history, intentionally created a feminine public image for herself to quash rumors about her lesbianism.

Mildred Didrikson was a Texas tomboy, born in Port Arthur in 1911 and raised in Beaumont. The youngest girl in a poor family, she got the nickname "Baby" at birth, which was shortened to "Babe" as she got older. Didrikson was a natural athlete who excelled at games usually reserved for boys, like basketball, which she played in high school and later as a semi-pro. When a reporter once ticked off her athletic achievements and asked if there was anything she didn't play, she laughed, "Yeah, dolls." In physical appearance, too, Didrikson eschewed traditional femininity until she was well into her twenties, preferring pants and flat shoes and a short, unstyled haircut.

Even as a teenager, Didrikson set herself the goal "to be the greatest athlete that ever lived," as she recalled in her 1950s autobiography. Both her gender and the poverty of her family, though, kept her from getting the quality of training that other athletes received, and she had to improvise. When her father read a newspaper story to her about the 1928 Olympics, Didrikson decided to train for the next Olympiad by hurdling the hedges that lined the yards of her working-class neighborhood.

At the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, Didrikson took two gold medals, in the javelin toss and the 80-meter hurdles, breaking world records in both. She also won the running high jump but in an unconventional way — by diving instead of jumping feet first. The perplexed judges decided to award her a half-gold, half-silver medal, the first and only one ever given in Olympic history.

Didrikson returned home a star, dubbed "The Amazing Amazon" and "The Terrific Tomboy" by the media. After the Olympics, she traveled the country taking part in public exhibitions of her prowess in sports like boxing, diving, and tennis. However, she soon focused all her energy on golf, which she practiced 12 to 16 hours a day. A 1933 tour with golf legend Gene Sarazen honed

her skills and brought her more public notice.

But the press soon proved fickle. Reporters wrote about her physical appearance instead of her athletic ability. Many of the attacks openly challenged her gender. After losing a round of golf to Didrikson, Paul Gallico wrote snidely in *Esquire* that he wasn't sure "whether to invite the Babe into the men's locker room." The implication of much of the press coverage was that Didrikson was a lesbian.

Stung by these attacks, Didrikson decided she would never make it as an athlete unless she changed her image. In the mid-1930s, Didrikson bought a new, feminine wardrobe, had her hair styled, and began wearing lipstick and rouge. She drew the line at restrictive women's undergarments, though. After playing 18 holes of golf in a girdle, she tore into a friend's house screaming, "God damn! I'm choking to death!"

The biggest change that Didrikson made in her image was marrying George Zaharias, a professional wrestler, in 1938. Zaharias retired from wrestling the following year to manage his wife's career full time. Over the next decade, Didrikson Zaharias became one of the most successful and popular figures in women's golf. Always confident, she played to the gallery, often making jokes about her own

game. "I hit it straight but it went crooked," she would quip when one of her powerful drives shot out of bounds. The media once again loved her, and the Associated Press voted her Woman Athlete of the Year six times.

But there were few tournaments for women golfers, and Didrikson Zaharias was frustrated by the lack of competition. In 1950, she and five other women tried to change that by forming the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA). Didrikson Zaharias drew huge crowds, and in the first year, she won two-thirds of all the tournaments on the schedule. That year she also met Betty Dodd, a 19-year-old golfer who quickly became Didrikson Zaharias's friend and protege.

Though they publicly said they were "buddies," the two women were intimate, inseparable companions. George Zaharias was openly jealous of their relationship, and he and Dodd didn't get along. At one point, Didrikson Zaharias asked for a divorce, which Zaharias refused. After that, "he got meaner than a snake," Dodd recalled later. "We always had a lot more fun when he wasn't around."

In 1953, the feud came to an abrupt halt when Didrikson Zaharias was diagnosed with colon cancer. Dodd moved into the Zaharias home in Tampa to care for Didrikson Zaharias after her surgery, and the young woman never left. Though the golf star

rallied and made a comeback, winning seven LPGA tournaments in the next two years, she eventually succumbed and died on September 27, 1956, at only 45. Upon her passing, even one of Didrikson Zaharias's early naysayers called her "probably the most talented athlete, male or female, ever developed in our country." ▼

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.gay.net

Further reading:

Brownworth, Victoria. "Locker-Room Lockout: Dyke Bashing in American Sports." *The Advocate* (June 4, 1991).

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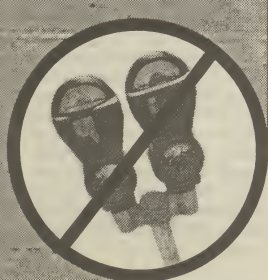
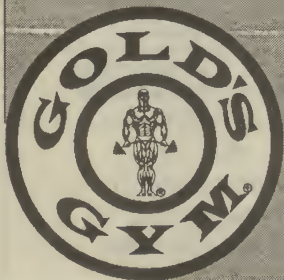
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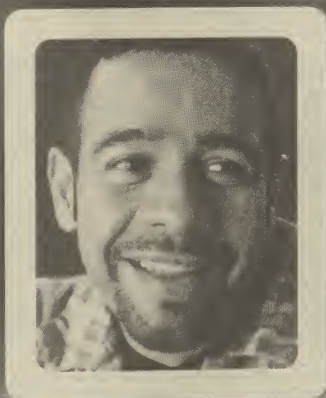
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OXANDRIN should be used only as directed by your physician.

Precautions and Warnings from the OXANDRIN® (oxandrolone, USP) CII Package Insert

In patients receiving androgenic anabolic steroid therapy, 1) peliosis hepatis, a condition in which the liver and sometimes splenic tissue is replaced with blood-filled cysts, has been reported; 2) liver cell tumors are also reported; 3) blood lipid changes that are known to be associated with increased risk of atherosclerosis are seen. See Warnings and Precautions sections of complete prescribing information.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: 1) known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast; 2) carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption); 3) pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose; 4) nephrosis of nephrotic phase of nephritis; 5) hypercalcemia

OXANDRIN®
oxandrolone, USP CII
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The answer to disease-related weight loss*

*After weight loss due to extensive surgery, chronic infection, severe trauma, failure to gain or maintain normal weight without definite pathophysiologic reasons, or protein catabolism due to prolonged corticosteroid administration.

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Please see important information on the following page.

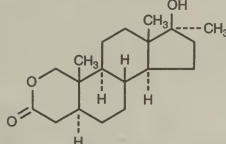
BTG PHARMACEUTICALS

OXANDRIN®
oxandrolone tablets

Revised, May 1996

DESCRIPTION

Oxandrin® oral tablets contain 2.5 mg of the anabolic steroid oxandrolone. Oxandrolone is 17β-hydroxy-17α-methyl-2-oxa-5α-androstan-3-one with the following structural formula:



Inactive ingredients include cornstarch, lactose, magnesium stearate, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Anabolic steroids are synthetic derivatives of testosterone. Certain clinical effects and adverse reactions demonstrate the androgenic properties of this class of drugs. Complete dissociation of anabolic and androgenic effects has not been achieved. The actions of anabolic steroids are therefore similar to those of male sex hormones with the possibility of causing serious disturbances of growth and sexual development if given to young children. Anabolic steroids suppress the gonadotropic functions of the pituitary and may exert a direct effect upon the testes.

During exogenous administration of anabolic androgens, endogenous testosterone release is inhibited through inhibition of pituitary luteinizing hormone (LH). At large doses, spermatogenesis may be suppressed through feedback inhibition of pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH).

Anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins and decrease high-density lipoproteins. These levels revert to normal on discontinuation of treatment.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Oxandrin is indicated as adjunctive therapy to promote weight gain after weight loss following extensive surgery, chronic infections, or severe trauma, and in some patients who without definite pathophysiologic reasons fail to gain or to maintain normal weight, to offset the protein catabolism associated with prolonged administration of corticosteroids, and for the relief of the bone pain frequently accompanying osteoporosis (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Oxandrolone is classified as a controlled substance under the Anabolic Steroids Control Act of 1990 and has been assigned to Schedule III (non-narcotic).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast.
2. Carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption).
3. Pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose.
4. Nephrosis, the nephrotic phase of nephritis.
5. Hypercalcemia.

WARNINGS

PELLOSIS HEPATIS, A CONDITION IN WHICH LIVER AND SOMETIMES SPLENIC TISSUE IS REPLACED WITH BLOOD-FILLED CYSTS, HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROID THERAPY. THESE CYSTS ARE SOMETIMES PRESENT WITH MINIMAL HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION, BUT AT OTHER TIMES THEY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FAILURE. THEY ARE OFTEN NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING LIVER FAILURE OR INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG USUALLY RESULTS IN COMPLETE DISAPPEARANCE OF LESIONS.

LIVER CELL TUMORS ARE ALSO REPORTED. MOST OFTEN THESE TUMORS ARE BENIGN AND ANDROGEN-DEPENDENT, BUT FATAL MALIGNANT TUMORS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG OFTEN RESULTS IN REGRESSION OR CESSATION OF PROGRESSION OF THE TUMOR. HOWEVER, HEPATIC TUMORS ASSOCIATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS ARE MUCH MORE VASCULAR THAN OTHER HEPATIC TUMORS AND MAY BE SILENT UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. BLOOD LIPID CHANGES THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS ARE SEEN IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE DECREASED HIGH-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS AND SOMETIMES INCREASED LOW-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS. THE CHANGES MAY BE VERY MARKED AND COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE.

Cholestatic hepatitis and jaundice may occur with 17-alkylated androgens at a relatively low dose. If cholestatic hepatitis with jaundice appears or if liver function tests become abnormal, oxandrolone should be discontinued and the etiology should be determined. Drug-induced jaundice is reversible when the medication is discontinued.

In patients with breast cancer, anabolic steroid therapy may cause hypercalcemia by stimulating osteolysis. Oxandrolone therapy should be discontinued if hypercalcemia occurs.

Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with preexisting cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. Concomitant administration of adrenal cortical steroid or ACTH may increase the edema.

In children, androgen therapy may accelerate bone maturation without producing compensatory gain in linear growth. This adverse effect results in compromised adult height. The younger the child, the greater the risk of compromising final mature height. The effect on bone maturation should be monitored by assessing bone age of the left wrist and hand every 6 months (See PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests).

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO ENHANCE ATHLETIC ABILITY.

PRECAUTIONS

General:

Women should be observed for signs of virilization (deepening of the voice, hirsutism, acne, clitoromegaly). Discontinuation of drug therapy at the time of evidence of mild virilism is necessary to prevent irreversible virilization. Some virilizing changes in women are irreversible even after prompt discontinuance of therapy and are not prevented by concomitant use of estrogens. Menstrual irregularities may also occur.

Anabolic steroids may cause suppression of clotting factors II, V, VII, and X, and an increase in prothrombin time.

Information for patients:

The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following side effects of androgens:

Males: Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis, appearance or aggravation of acne.

Females: Hoarseness, acne, changes in menstrual periods, or more facial hair.

All patients: Nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.

Laboratory tests:

Women with disseminated breast carcinoma should have frequent determination of urine and serum calcium levels during the course of therapy (See WARNINGS).

Because of the hepatotoxicity associated with the use of 17-alkylated androgens, liver function tests should be obtained periodically.

Periodic (every 6 months) x-ray examinations of bone age should be made during treatment of children to determine the rate of bone maturation and the effects of androgen therapy on the epiphyseal centers.

Serum lipids and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol determinations should be done periodically as androgenic anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins. Serum cholesterol levels may increase during therapy. Therefore, caution is required when administering these agents to patients with a history of myocardial infarction or coronary artery disease. Serial determinations of serum cholesterol should be made and therapy adjusted accordingly.

Hemoglobin and hematocrit should be checked periodically for polycythemia in patients who are receiving high doses of anabolic steroids.

Drug interactions

Anticoagulants:

Anabolic steroids may increase sensitivity to oral anticoagulants. Dosage of the anticoagulant may have to be decreased in order to maintain desired prothrombin time. Patients receiving oral anticoagulant therapy require close monitoring, especially when anabolic steroids are started or stopped.

Oral hypoglycemic agents:

Oxandrolone may inhibit the metabolism of oral hypoglycemic agents.

Adrenal steroids or ACTH:

In patients with edema, concomitant administration with adrenal cortical steroids or ACTH may increase the edema.

Drug/Laboratory test interactions:

Anabolic steroids may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T_4 serum levels and increased resin uptake of T_3 and T_4 . Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged. In addition, a decrease in PBI and radioactive iodine uptake may occur.

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

Animal data:

Oxandrolone has not been tested in laboratory animals for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects. In 2-year chronic oral rat studies, a dose-related reduction of spermatogenesis and decreased organ weights (testes, prostate, seminal vesicles, ovaries, uterus, adrenals, and pituitary) were shown.

Human data:

Liver cell tumors have been reported in patients receiving long-term therapy with androgenic anabolic steroids in high doses (See WARNINGS). Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

Pregnancy:

Teratogenic effects — Pregnancy Category X (See CONTRA-INDICATIONS).

Nursing mothers:

It is not known whether anabolic steroids are excreted in human milk. Because of the potential of serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from oxandrolone, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric use:

Anabolic agents may accelerate epiphyseal maturation more rapidly than linear growth in children and the effect may continue for 6 months after the drug has been stopped. Therefore, therapy should be monitored by x-ray studies at 6-month intervals in order to avoid the risk of compromising adult height. Androgenic anabolic steroid therapy should be used very cautiously in children and only by specialists who are aware of the effects on bone maturation (See WARNINGS).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions have been associated with use of anabolic steroids:

Hepatic: Cholestatic jaundice with, rarely, hepatic necrosis and death. Hepatocellular neoplasms and peliosis hepatitis with long-term therapy (See WARNINGS). Reversible changes in liver function tests also occur including increased bromsulphthalein (BSP) retention, and increases in serum bilirubin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST, SGOT) and alkaline phosphatase.

In males:

Prepubertal: Phallic enlargement and increased frequency or persistence of erections.

Postpubertal: Inhibition of testicular function, testicular atrophy and oligospermia, impotence, chronic priapism, epididymitis, and bladder irritability.

In females:

Clitoral enlargement, menstrual irregularities.

CNS: Habituation, excitation, insomnia, depression, and changes in libido.

Hematologic: Bleeding in patients on concomitant anticoagulant therapy.

Breast: Gynecomastia.

Larynx: Deepening of the voice in females.

Hair: Hirsutism and male pattern baldness in females.

Skin: Acne (especially in females and prepubertal males).

Skeleton: Premature closure of epiphyses in children (See PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric use).

Fluid and electrolytes: Edema, retention of serum electrolytes (sodium chloride, potassium, phosphate, calcium).

Metabolic/Endocrine: Decreased glucose tolerance (See PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests), increased creatinine excretion, increased serum levels of creatinine phosphokinase (CPK).

Masculinization of the fetus. Inhibition of gonadotropin secretion.

OVERDOSAGE

No symptoms or signs associated with overdosage have been reported. It is possible that sodium and water retention may occur.

The oral LD_{50} of oxandrolone in mice and dogs is greater than 5,000 mg/kg. No specific antidote is known, but gastric lavage may be used.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Therapy with anabolic steroids is adjunctive to and not a replacement for conventional therapy. The duration of therapy with Oxandrin (oxandrolone) will depend on the response of the patient and the possible appearance of adverse reactions. Therapy should be intermittent.

Adults: The usual adult dosage of Oxandrin is one 2.5-mg tablet 2 to 4 times daily. However, the response of individuals to anabolic steroids varies, and a daily dosage of as little as 2.5 mg or as much as 20 mg may be required to achieve the desired response. A course of therapy of 2 to 4 weeks is usually adequate. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

Children: For children the total daily dosage of Oxandrin is ≤ 0.1 mg per kilogram body weight or ≤ 0.045 mg per pound of body weight. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

HOW SUPPLIED

Oxandrin 2.5-mg tablets are oval, white, and scored with BTG on one side and "11" on each side of the scoreline on the other side; bottles of 100 (NDC 54396-111-11).

Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mastering human sexuality

New Director of Human Sexuality at SFSU

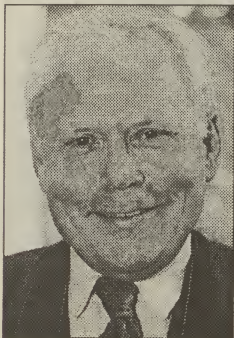
by Timothy Rodrigues

San Francisco State University (SFSU) has hired openly gay Professor Gilbert Herdt as the new director of the Human Sexuality Studies Program (HSSP), and may offer a new master of arts degree, possibly by spring semester 2000.

The HSSP, inaugurated in 1981 (with roots in efforts by instructors in the 1960s), and now serving over 3,000 students annually, provides knowledge about the processes and variations in sexual functions and reproduction; intimate relationships; sexual and gender role development and behavior; and the psychological, social, cultural, historical and ethical contexts of human sexuality, according to press materials.

Faculty and administrators have initiated efforts to establish the new degree.

"The program is the most exciting in the country," said Herdt, most recently the director for the



Professor Gilbert Herdt

Center for Culture and Mental Health Research, and professor at the University of Chicago's Committee on Human Development.

He is looking forward to the possibilities for the program at SFSU, a "large, urban, multicultural campus."

Herdt believes that the increas-

ing focus on human sexuality studies has been encouraged by the internationalization of the discipline driven by the HIV/AIDS epidemic coupled with a lessening of boundaries between traditional academic disciplines.

Currently, students can obtain an undergraduate minor in either human sexuality studies or gay, lesbian and bisexual studies at SFSU.

A wide range of classes constitute these programs including: contemporary sexuality, the development of maleness and femaleness, sexual identity and communication, gay love, and lesbian literature.

"I am very, very happy there is such a thing," said Jonathan Katz, department chair of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Studies at City College of San Francisco, "because we graduate extremely competent students in queer studies and they didn't have any place to go [to further those studies]."

Herdt holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Australian National University and was a Guggenheim

fellowship recipient last year; he has written more than 30 scholarly papers and is the author, co-author, or editor of 18 books, the topics of which offer a broader view of the man.

The diverse writings include: *Third Sex, Third Gender: Beyond Sexual Dimorphism in History and Culture*; *Sexual Cultures, Migration and AIDS*; *Children of Horizons: How Gay and Lesbian Youth are Forging a New Way Out of the Closet*; and *Intimate Communications: Erotics and The Study of Culture*.

Also, the Department of Human Sexuality at SFSU will host "Kinsey at 50: The Influence of the Alfred Kinsey Sexual Surveys on American Society", featuring keynote addresses and panel discussions on Friday, November 6 at 10:45 a.m., in the theater at SFSU. ▼

For more information on the Human Sexuality Studies Program or Kinsey at 50, call (415) 338-1343.

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Wilson veto targets workers

by M.R. Richards

Governor Pete Wilson has vetoed AB 2156 by Democratic Assemblymember Fred Keeley of Boulder Creek. Keeley's bill would have allowed workers a full year, instead of 30 days, to file complaints of job discrimination against employers. The bill would have brought the time frame in line with state civil rights laws that allow

for complaints to be filed up to a year after an alleged occurrence.

Although employment discrimination based on sexual orientation is covered in the state Labor Code, testimony in committee hearings pointed out that when workers become unemployed their first priorities are surviving the shock of displacement and then taking care of the basics for survival before they can begin to assess what happened to them. Many

people testifying were adamant that 30 days is simply not enough time to gather evidence, find witnesses, and file a complaint.

However, Wilson in his veto message said the bill is unnecessary because the 30-day limit can be extended for good cause. He said, "Extending the complaint period could encourage the filing of frivolous complaints which nevertheless would require time consuming, difficult, and costly investigations."

Experts in labor law and employment discrimination say the bill would not have encouraged frivolous litigation and note that the complaint period is rarely extended — so that with this veto, workers are deprived of recourse against discriminatory practices in the workplace.

As is his usual practice, a last minute flurry of vetoes is expected from the governor's office by Friday, September 25. ▼

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- Service all fluids
- Check belts and hoses and adjust if needed
- Inspect coolant system
- Check lights
- Adjust steering box if necessary
- Lube chassis
- Service battery
- Road test

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- Replace clutch hydraulic fluid
- Adjust clutch
- Check & fill all fluids
- Lube chassis
- Inspect exhaust system
- Inspect heating & cooling system
- Pressure test coolant system
- Flush radiator & replace coolant
- Inspect hydro rail brake system
- Replace brake fluid
- Adjust parking brake
- Inspect brake lining
- Rotate tires
- Set tire pressure
- Lube & adjust hinges
- Adjust steering gear box
- Inspect drive shaft
- Inspect c/v boots, suspension system, front & rear
- Test exterior lights
- Road test

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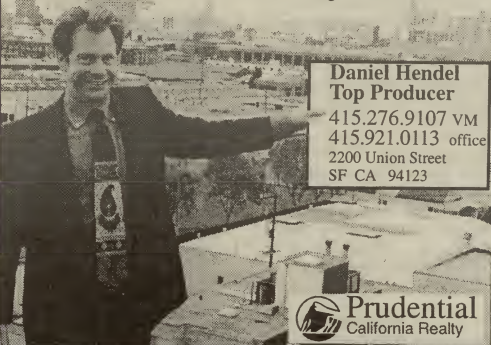
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HERTH
REAL ESTATECelebrating 33
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lend support to Hawaii marriage case**

by Cynthia Laird

That famous lesbian couple, actresses Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche, will headline an event in San Francisco organized by two national gay rights groups designed to bring attention to the Hawaii marriage case this Monday, September 28.

Those purchasing the \$50 tickets will be treated to a premiere screening of the upcoming documentary, *The Real Ellen Story*; proceeds will benefit Protect Our Constitution/Human Rights Campaign and is being co-sponsored by the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). For an additional \$1,000 per person, people can join DeGeneres and Heche for an intimate dinner at Mecca following the film.

The HRC noted that the battle for equal marriage in Hawaii has moved from the courts to the political arena. On November 3, voters in Hawaii will decide whether to amend the state's constitution



Anne Heche and Ellen DeGeneres

to allow legislators to limit marriage to the union of one man and one woman. "To win our right to legal marriage, our community must invest in the full-scale campaign that is under way," the HRC stated.

HRC estimates that \$1 million is needed for the campaign and has scheduled a slew of fundraisers, including a gala dinner in San Francisco Saturday, October 10.

Those who have purchased dinner tickets by today (Thursday, September 24) will receive a \$25 discount off the movie ticket. Organizers said they've worked for over a year to mount an effective campaign. "Attracting some of the greatest local and national talent, we created 'Protect Our Constitution,' a first-rate campaign with strong leadership, an outstanding field team, and vital media resources," according to the HRC.

The Hawaii Supreme Court is poised to rule favorably on the Hawaii marriage case and to bring the dream of same-gender marriage to a reality, stated the HRC. The group credited attorney Dan Foley and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund for "carefully shepherding this case through the Hawaii courts." ▼

To order tickets, call Box Office Tickets at (800) 494-TIXS 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information about the dinner call (202) 789-0200 or e-mail Witcom@aol.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

United: DP benefits hurt employee morale

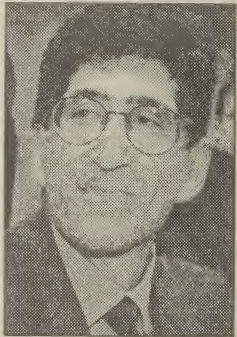
by Cynthia Laird

United Airlines has come out swinging in anticipation of a Friday, October 2 hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken in Oakland, to see if it can win a preliminary injunction in its attempt to avoid complying with San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance. Among the arguments United put forth in a brief obtained by the *Bay Area Reporter* is that complying with the ordinance would put a cramp in the airline's relations with employees and have a detrimental effect on employee morale.

The company's dispute with the city stems from a \$25 million contract covering kitchen and ground facilities at San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The city's ordinance requires that companies doing business with the city must offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to spouses.

Wilken ruled in April to uphold most of the city's ordinance covering the airlines, but also ruled that airlines don't have to offer some benefits, such as medical coverage and pension benefits, because they are federally regulated. United continues to fight Wilken's ruling that airlines have to offer so-called non-ERISA benefits such as bereavement leave and travel, setting the stage for her to rule on this latest issue. United filed the latest suit on its own, apart from the Air Transport Association (ATA), which filed the suit Wilken ruled on in April. United has become the first passenger airline to file such an action.

In its brief, United states, "Any attempt to limit the extension of benefits to the domestic partners of SFO-based employees would create severe employee relations problems for United. Because of the nature of the airline industry, United's pilots and flight attendants interact and work on a regular basis with their peers who are based in different cities. ... Because these employees frequently work together, there is no basis for treating them differently with regard to the extension of valuable benefits."



Dep. City Atty. Dennis Aftergut

According to United, "The employee relations fallout is likely to be exacerbated by the fact of regular interaction among those employees eligible for the benefits and those who are not. The perceived inequity of the situation will likely be the subject of frequent discussions in the aircraft, potentially leading to animosity and resentment among the employees."

In his rebuttal to the United brief, Chief Assistant City Attorney Dennis Aftergut attacked United's reasoning. "Playing the other side of the fence, United says that if it limits equal non-ERISA benefits to employees based at SFO, the effect will be to strain employee relations among members of flight crews eligible for different benefits based on locale. As the company's Director of People Services testifies, 'The excluded employees will perceive that they are being denied something of real value, a perception that will lead to a deterioration of employee morale.'"

"Put another way, United seems to be saying that to avoid discrimination based on geography, the company should be permitted to continue discriminating based on marital status or sexual orientation. After all, gay and lesbian employees currently perceive that they are being something of real value," Aftergut's opposing brief stated.

"Moreover, the 'harm' to the morale of employees outside SFO because their counterparts in SFO with domestic partners receive the

benefits is both 'dubious and speculative,'" Aftergut continued. "As one gay employee of United testifies, he is happy that United employees in New Zealand receive equal benefits, he only wishes he too would receive equal treatment."

San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz, one of the co-authors of the equal benefits ordinance, blasted United's arguments in general and the employee morale in particular. "That is the most absurd argument I've ever heard," Katz told the *B.A.R.* "If anything, their failure to award equal status to all employees is reason for [low] employee morale. It's a matter of fairness so all employees have good morale."

Katz said studies show morale is higher among employees who are showed they are valued by their employers. Katz was also critical of United's claims that it doesn't discriminate against gays. "United may claim to have good policies, but their actions speak differently."

Katz maintained the city was extremely careful in crafting the equal benefits ordinance, and it's designed to work with a company and any union agreements the company may have. She noted that the ordinance does not call for "reopeners," that is, requiring businesses to go back to the bargaining table in order to implement the law. Rather, the ordinance allows for implementation when a union's contract comes up for negotiation.

"We all knew a lawsuit would be filed. United took a chance. Now, when we've won a significant victory in court, for them to argue they were coerced is ridiculous," said Katz. "The bottom line is United is trying to get out of a contract. They're trying to renege." ▼

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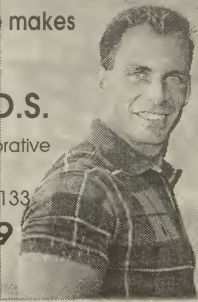


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Cal 'DoMA' initiative campaign completed

United Press International

Supporters have submitted petition signatures that they say will qualify a proposed "Defense of Marriage Act" for the California ballot.

Republican state Senator Pete Knight of Palmdale and others said Monday, September 21 they were submitting more than 675,000 signatures to county voter registrars — well in excess of the 433,269 needed to qualify the measure.

If it appears on the ballot, probably in the year 2000, and is approved by voters, the measure would have the state's Family Code say that only male-female marriage is valid or recognized in California.

It's a response to concerns that California might be required by the U.S. Constitution to recognize same-sex marriage contracted in other states — unless the state expressly denies recognition.

California law already defines marriage as "between a man and a woman" but is unclear on what would happen if another state legalized same-gender marriage.

Knight says judges in Hawaii, Alaska, Vermont, and New York currently are considering such action.

The initiative effort follows several failed attempts in the Legislature in recent years to resolve the issue for California, where public opinion polls have shown a majority of respondents disapproving of same-sex marriage. ▼

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.



International adoption agency's SF office helps without homophobia

by Shan Schwartz

If you are looking for a relatively easy way to become a parent, Accept is looking for you.

Founded in Los Altos in 1991, Accept is an adoption and counseling agency that specializes in international adoptions. The agency opened its second office earlier this summer in San Francisco to be closer to more people who might be interested in an international adoption.

Dr. Bradford Woo, director of Accept's new San Francisco office, said Accept has ridden a growing wave of overseas adoptions, particularly from China and Russia. Woo told the *Bay Area Reporter* that there continues to be no drop in the large number of children overseas in need of adoptive parents.

By locating in the city, Accept is targeting the broad Asian community as well as unmarried professionals of all races who are rapidly becoming more interested in adoptive parenting. Woo said that international adoptions are a relatively easy option for people of all races, backgrounds, and lifestyles.

"If you can afford it, if you don't have a significant criminal record, and if you're a U.S. citizen, the adoption is really there to be done for you," he said.

An international adoption can only be done by a legally married couple or by a single individual, Woo said. For an individual who adopts, California state law would allow a "second-parent adoption" after the international adoption is complete.

Christy Shepard, a nurse and therapist in San Francisco, adopted a three-year-old girl from Russia three years ago. She said her experience with Accept was "wonderful."

"I had absolutely none of the homophobia I worried I might experience," Shepard said. "I felt like they really worked hard to make me feel comfortable and reassured me a lot that there wasn't anything that would interfere with them writing a positive report [about me]."

Although the adoption process can involve mountains of paperwork and bureaucratic "hoop-jumping," Woo said Accept provides the resources to help single people or couples through the entire process.

Highly recommended

Woo said that international adoptions are generally less costly and less emotionally nerve-racking than domestic adoptions. The domestic demand is much higher than internationally, and a birth mother in the United States can always change her mind

before the adoption takes place.

Race is not an issue for international adoptions, but Woo said various options exist if parents have a preference for race of their child.

"If you're Chinese, for instance, it's hard to adopt an Asian child domestically," Woo said. "But it's much easier to go to

China, especially if you're willing to adopt a girl."

If one wishes to adopt a Caucasian child, Woo said, Russia is the place to look. Woo said there are currently more than 500,000 children under state care in Russia alone, and about 40,000 are eligible for international adoption. Although China and Russia

have many children in need of parents, Woo said Accept helps people adopt children from other countries as well, including Thailand, Vietnam, India, and Guatemala.

Shepard said she chose international adoption because she wanted a situation where the child

page 21 ►

Lyon-Martin begins 'Choosing Children'

by Shan Schwartz

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services has launched a fall series of parenting programs to inform prospective parents of their options and rights in various means of becoming parents.

The four-session panel series, "Choosing Children," takes place every second Thursday evening through the end of October.

The series began last Thursday, September 17, with "Children and Grandparents Share their Experiences." Members from P-FLAG and COLAGE shared their experiences as members of families with gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender members. Attendees were encouraged to participate with questions or sharing their own experiences.

On October 1, the panel will include legal experts to discuss issues such as surrogacy, second-parent adoption, homophobia, agreements between partners, co-parenting issues, and legal protection for non-traditional families. Experts on hand will include the Honorable Donna Hitchens, presiding judge of the San Francisco Superior Court Family Law Division, and Chris Hwang, a staff attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

"The Adoption Option" is the subject on October 15 for women and men considering adoption as their way to parenting. Representatives from local nonprofit adoption agencies, international adoption agencies, and the San Francisco Department of Human Services will be on hand to offer advice and answer questions.

Finally, on October 29, the

subject will be "Conception: Choices for Women and Men." Discussion will include choosing a donor, health and safety issues, procedures, agency requirements, and success rates. Panelists will include representatives from the Sperm Bank of California, Pacific Reproductive Services, and Rainbow Flag Health Services.

The panel discussions are scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Lyon-Martin's offices, located at 1748 Market Street (at Valencia), Suite 201. The cost for the programs is \$20 if paid in advance, or \$25 at the door. Pre-registration is required for each session. ▼

For more information or to register, call Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services at (415) 565-7672.

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What Sneak preview of "The Real Ellen Story" the behind-the-scenes documentary about Ellen's courageous coming out episode that made television history. Bravo cable network will broadcast this special program nationally on September 30. Ellen and Anne will take questions from the audience at the end of the screening.

Following the film, join Ellen, Anne and Betty for an intimate dinner at MECCA. \$1,000 per person also to benefit Protect Our Constitution/HRC. For information about the dinner, please call 202/789-0200 or e-mail Witcom@aol.com.

And Why? The battle for equal marriage in Hawaii has moved from the courts and into the voting booth. On November 3, Hawaii voters will decide whether to amend Hawaii's Constitution to allow legislators to limit marriage to the union of one man and one woman. To win our legal right to marry, our community must join now, to help defeat this amendment. The Hawaii Supreme Court is poised to rule favorably on the Hawaii same-sex marriage case and to bring the dream of same-gender marriage within our grasp. Let's protect Hawaii's Constitution and preserve our freedom to marry.

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We have the power to preserve our rights, however, Betty, Ellen and Anne — and all of us — need your generous contribution today. Please join us.

If you're HIV+, CRIXIVAN may help you live a longer, healthier life.



- **New NIH research showed people taking CRIXIVAN in triple therapy lived longer and experienced fewer opportunistic infections.**

- Recent year-long research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (Protocol ACTG 320) studied over 1,000 patients and confirmed results from another study.
- The group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. This reduction was significant enough for the NIH to recommend the study be stopped, so that all participants could benefit from the findings. Because the study was ended early, there was insufficient data to determine the statistical impact of CRIXIVAN on survival.

- **CRIXIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.**

- In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).
- Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.

- **CRIXIVAN is generally well tolerated.**

- CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIXIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.
- As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

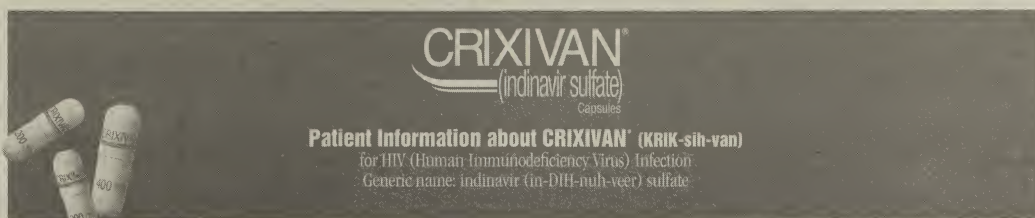
Please read the following page for more detailed information about CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

**Remember to
ask your doctor
about CRIXIVAN.**

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Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, every day.** CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN. Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness). In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)

EPIVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC)

BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

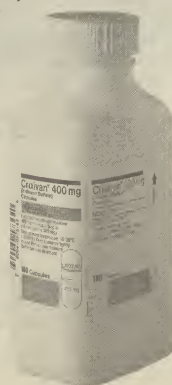
Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Gore addresses HRC dinner

by Bob Roehr

Vice President Al Gore had "a simple message" to bring to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) dinner last Sunday, September 19 in Washington, D.C.: "Equal opportunity for all, special privileges for none." His speech was typical for such events: long on praise and avoiding disagreement.

Gore said that he and President Bill Clinton had appointed record numbers of openly gay and lesbian people to positions within the administration. He recounted "when gays and lesbians were effectively barred from holding jobs in their own federal government. We've come a long way."

Left unstated was that the federal government, with its policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the military, remains the largest employer that discriminates against gay and lesbian Americans.

"We are determined to stand for justice and the American dream being available to all of the people in this great nation of ours," the vice president said. "The United States Senate should join us in that crusade and confirm Jim Hormel as the next ambassador to Luxembourg. Let's give him the up or down vote that he deserves."

Gore endorsed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), the crown jewel of HRC's legislative agenda. And he pointed to increases in both

AIDS research at NIH and funding of Ryan White services during the Clinton administration.

"We will not stop until all people have access to the treatment that they need," he pledged. "We will not rest until we have a vaccine, and until we have a cure for AIDS." He also didn't mention that Congress, even with Republican leadership, has consistently appropriated more money for those programs than the Clinton White House has requested.

"We haven't always agreed on everything and I can't promise that we always will," Gore told the audience. "But I can promise an open door, an open mind, and an open heart, a frank and open dialogue that can help us learn from one another and move forward together."

Birch barks

Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director, spoke earlier in the evening in praise of the Clinton administration. "Let us be a nation where people can seek forgiveness. And let us not become a nation of hunters and the hunted, a condition that our community knows all too well."

She said the current political climate was "marked by confusion, and anger, and demagoguery, and hypocrisy," and compared the Christian Coalition, meeting just a few blocks down the street, "with the Inquisition or the Scopes Monkey Trial" on evolution.

Birch described the far right's

recent advertising campaign on homosexuality as "designed to shame you, to quash you, and to take from you your hard earned self-esteem and courage."

"They will fail," she added.

"We have defeated every anti-gay, anti-AIDS, anti-lesbian health initiative in the U.S. Congress, except for Mr. Barr's [Georgia, Republican Representative Bob Barr] DOMA [Defense of Marriage Act] to date," Birch claimed.

Turning to current elections, she mentioned Christine Kehoe in San Diego, Greta Cammermeyer in the Seattle area, and Tammy Baldwin in Wisconsin, all of who are Democratic nominees for Congress. She declared 1998 "the year of the lesbian candidate." ▼

Adoption

◀ page 18

wouldn't be taken out of a home, and she could be guaranteed the process would be permanent.

"I would highly recommend it," she said. "I had a great experience because I was very well supported by the staff to do it alone, and they really made me feel like I had what it takes for the adoption."

Woo said that another recent client shared her amazement when she recently traveled to China to pick up her newly adopted daughter.

"She was really struck by how many girls were still there to be



Vice President Al Gore

adopted," Woo said. "You'd think that they would run out, but they're not running out. There are still so many little girls in need of parents."

Woo said he hoped prospective parents would consider the needs of the thousands of children overseas when they consider other methods of becoming parents.

"They don't think about all the thousands of children in orphanages in China and Russia who need to be adopted. If no one adopts them, they are stuck in orphanages, and that's not always a good place for the children to grow up."

Accept facilitates about 100 international adoptions a year in the Bay Area, and it's the only non-

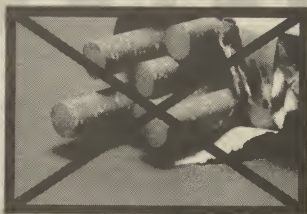
profit, state-licensed adoption agency in San Francisco that specializes in international adoptions.

Depending on the country from where a child is adopted, the process can last from seven months to about a year, Woo said. The total cost for an international adoption (including travel) adds up to range from \$14,000 to \$18,000.

But for anyone seriously interested, an informational consultation is always free. ▼

For more information, call Accept's San Francisco office at (415) 681-4957 or the Los Altos office at (650) 917-8090.

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Second Circuit Court of Appeals upholds 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

by Cynthia Laird

A federal appeals court in New York, deferring to military authority, upheld the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced Wednesday, September 23.

A three-judge panel of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled in *Able v. USA* that courts owe total deference to Congress regarding military policies, and that DADT was not in violation of the First Amendment nor the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The 23-page decision does not analyze the rationale behind DADT. It begins with a strong presumption of the policy's validity and then narrows the scope of the equal protection review customarily afforded discriminatory government action. The court concluded that where the military is concerned, "...we will not substitute our judgment for that of Congress."

The decision reverses a ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Nickerson that had handed the anti-gay military policy its most comprehensive defeat. In July 1997, Nickerson said that the special rules that the military imposes on lesbian and gay service members serves only to accommodate the anticipated anti-gay feelings of other military personnel.

Dixon Osburn, co-director of the Servicemembers Legal De-



Dixon Osburn

fense Network, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was "very disappointed," by the ruling.

"One would hope that the courts would pick up the veil of government and look behind it," Osburn said. "The court simply wants to accept it [DADT] at face value. I think that's wrong."

Lambda Legal Director Beatrice Dohrn said, "The court abdicated its constitutional responsibility by refusing to even examine 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' Lesbian and gay service members are prepared to defend the Constitution with their lives, but the court today says they are not entitled to basic protections simply because Congress and the military say they aren't."

Shame and disgrace

"Tomorrow or the next day,

just like yesterday and the day before, the government will discharge five or seven or 10 loyal, brave Americans who it will admit have served their country well. The day after that, they'll do it again. And so it will go for the foreseeable future," said Matthew Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "The shame and disgrace in this belongs not to these good people, but to those in government who passed this law and those who allow it to govern the military."

DADT prohibits any off-duty sexual and affectionate conduct by gays and lesbians, but not by heterosexuals. The military policy also prohibits gay personnel from making statements that indicate their sexual orientation.

It remains for the government to decide whether to expel the six plaintiffs because they disclosed their sexual orientation in order to challenge the policy.

Able differs from the previous challenges in that the six active service members proactively sued, asserting that both the conduct and speech portions of the ban are unconstitutional. Other cases regarding DADT have been in response to discharge proceedings and most have focused on the "speech" portion of the ban and its presumption that anyone who speaks out also engages in prohibited conduct.

Lambda and the ACLU have not announced whether they will appeal the decision. Osburn said the decision could be appealed to the full circuit court or they could petition the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case. ▼

Anti-gay attitude down in the military

by Bob Roehr

The level of anti-gay feeling in the military appears to be dropping, says Charles Moskos, the father of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy. In an exclusive interview, he said that he is at a loss to explain why this change in attitude is occurring. But he suggested that perhaps it reflects changes in the greater society.

The Northwestern University professor has regularly conducted surveys of attitudes among male soldiers in the Army. In June 1992, just prior to the official announcement of DADT, 67 percent "strongly disagreed" with allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Combat troops have always tended to feel more strongly about the issue than support personnel.

But over the last two years that number has taken a steep, continuous drop to only 36 percent, according to the latest sampling taken in August. Those who strongly support the ideas of gays

serving has not changed, remaining in single digits (seven percent in August).

The big change has been in the middle. Those who more modestly support gays have increased from 12 percent in 1992 to 19 percent, while those who are "not sure" of the question have swelled from eight to 22 percent.

Overall, those males in the Army who oppose gays serving, either "strongly" or less strongly, has dropped from a peak of 75 percent to slightly more than half, 52 percent.

Moskos noted that the views of women in the Army have always been more tolerant. Their opposition peaked at the halfway mark in 1992 and is now down to 25 percent, while those who support the concept have grown to 53 percent.

He says that concern over the role of women in the military has replaced same-sex issues as the number one concern of both genders. Perhaps that is because it is a topic that more people can personally identify with as affecting their lives.

SLDN has acts to grind

"Most current gay discharges are for 'statements,' not 'acts,'" said Moskos. "The military is worried that this has become an easy out and so they are beginning to demand proof" that these people are in fact gay or lesbian.

It is more than ironic that when it comes to practice, the military only needs to assert that someone is gay in order to discharge them, while a person claiming to be gay must now prove it.

Dixon Osburn, co-director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), disputed the assertion of Moskos, which the military has been making since April, that gays are opting out of the military. "We found absolutely no evidence to support that," he said. "This is not an easy out, you are losing your career, your educational benefits, all sorts of benefits. To think that this is something that people take lightly is offensive."

"What the Pentagon is doing is
page 32 ►

RESTORING LEAN BODY MASS

JUST GOT A SHOT IN THE ARM

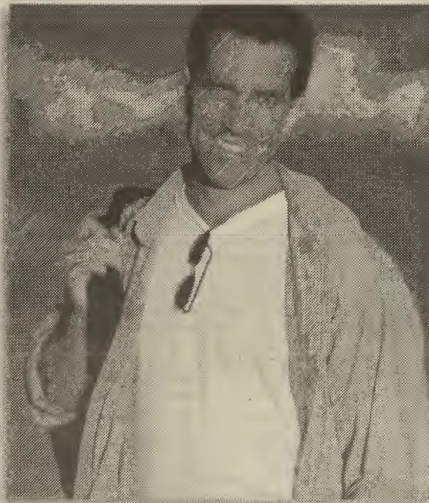
*SEROSTIM combats the loss of lean body mass in ways other treatments don't.**

SEROSTIM is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia, in combination with antiviral therapy, based on analysis of intermediate effects in studies up to 12 weeks duration.

You may know that wasting robs a person of lean muscle and organ mass, and physical performance. But did you know that it can strike anyone with HIV? At any time? Even while your weight remains constant? That's because you could be adding fat to your body while still losing lean body mass (LBM).

If you are experiencing wasting, discuss with your doctor whether SEROSTIM—human growth hormone—might be right for you.

SEROSTIM rebuilds LBM and improves physical performance while reducing body fat. Studies show that without the LBM you need, you could become weaker, get sick more often and may not live as long as people who are not losing lean body mass; although the clinical significance of treatment-induced weight gain and increasing LBM have not been established. Physical performance was assessed by treadmill exercise testing. Grip strength, another measure of muscle performance may decline, probably due to increased tissue fullness, which sometimes occurs with growth hormone. Subjective assessment of performance was measured in a nine-point questionnaire. SEROSTIM showed significant improvements on two points—change in appearance and overall benefit of therapy—while results of the other measures were inconclusive. Patients who continue to lose weight in their first two weeks of therapy should be reevaluated.



SEROSTIM isn't a steroid, an appetite stimulant or nutritional supplement. It's a completely new anabolic (LBM building) and anticatabolic (inhibits LBM breakdown) treatment that increases LBM and improves physical performance by interacting with a variety of cell types.

One way to know for sure if your treatment has restored LBM is to ask your doctor about BIA or Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis. BIA measures body composition so changes in LBM can be monitored. It takes just 5 minutes and is completely painless. If your physician cannot provide

BIA testing, ask him/her to call Serono at 800-714-2437 and a representative will help your physician gain access to a BIA system on your behalf.

People on SEROSTIM may observe side effects. In clinical trials, patients treated with SEROSTIM noticed muscle and joint soreness (53.7% vs. 33.3% for placebo) and swelling in the hands and feet (27.3% vs. 2.7% for placebo). Physicians rated these symptoms as mild-to-moderate, and in most cases they will subside with continued treatment. Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. SEROSTIM use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Also, SEROSTIM must be used along with anti-HIV drug therapy. Data related to interactions between SEROSTIM and anti-HIV treatments are not yet available.

Wasting is treatable. See your doctor or call the SEROSTIM Access Line at 800-714-2437 to find out about SEROSTIM's solution. ■



*Serostim is an anabolic and anticatabolic agent that works by interacting with specific receptors on a variety of cell types. For additional information about Serostim, please refer to the brief summary on the next page.

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BRIEF SUMMARY. SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION BEFORE PRESCRIBING.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Serostim® [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia. This indication is based on analyses of surrogate endpoints in studies of up to 12 weeks in duration. Concomitant anti-viral therapy is necessary (see PRECAUTIONS: General). The continued use of Serostim treatment should be reevaluated in patients who continue to lose weight in the first two weeks of treatment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Serostim is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to growth hormone.

PRECAUTIONS: General: Serostim therapy should be carried out under the regular guidance of a physician who is experienced in the diagnosis and management of AIDS. Inadequate nutritional intake, malabsorption and hypogonadism, which are common in individuals with AIDS and which may contribute to catabolism and weight loss, should also be monitored and treated.

HIV and Growth Hormone Considerations: In some experimental systems, recombinant human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been shown to potentiate HIV replication in vitro at concentrations ranging from 50-250 ng/ml. There was no increase in virus production when the antiretroviral agents, zidovudine, didanosine or lamivudine were added to the culture medium. Additional in vitro studies have shown that r-hGH does not interfere with the antiviral activity of zalcitabine or stavudine. In the controlled clinical trials, no significant growth hormone-associated increase in viral burden was observed. However, the protocol required all participants to be on concomitant nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of the study. In view of the potential for acceleration of virus replication, it is recommended that HIV+ patients be maintained on nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of Serostim treatment.

Increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly in the hands and feet) and musculoskeletal discomfort (pain, swelling and/or stiffness) may occur during treatment with Serostim, but may resolve spontaneously, with analgesic therapy, or after reducing the frequency of dosing (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Carpal tunnel syndrome may occur during treatment with Serostim. If the symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome do not resolve by decreasing the weekly number of doses of Serostim, it is recommended that treatment be discontinued.

Patients should be informed that allergic reactions are possible and that prompt medical attention should be sought if an allergic reaction occurs. None of the 188 study participants with AIDS wasting who were evaluable for antibody assessments and who were treated with Serostim for the first time developed detectable antibodies to growth hormone (> 4 pg binding). Patients were not rechallenged.

Recombinant Human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been associated with acute pancreatitis.

Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. Serostim use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Patients with other risk factors for glucose intolerance should be monitored closely during Serostim therapy.

No cases of intracranial hypertension (IH) have been observed among patients with AIDS wasting treated with Serostim. The syndrome of IH, with papilledema, visual changes, headache, and nausea and/or vomiting has been reported in a small number of children with growth failure treated with growth hormone products. Nevertheless, funduscopic evaluation of patients is recommended at the initiation and periodically during the course of Serostim therapy.

Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, and other malignancies are common in HIV+ individuals. There was no increase in the incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, or in the progression of cutaneous Kaposi's sarcoma in clinical studies of Serostim. Patients with internal KS lesions were excluded from the studies. Potential effects on other malignancies are unknown.

Information For Patients: Patients being treated with Serostim should be informed of the potential benefits and risks associated with treatment. Patients should be instructed to contact their physician should they experience any side effects or discomfort during treatment with Serostim. It is recommended that Serostim be administered using sterile, disposable syringes and needles. Patients should be thoroughly instructed in the importance of proper disposal and cautioned against any reuse of needles and syringes. An appropriate container for the disposal of used syringes and needles should be employed. Patients should be instructed to rotate injection sites to avoid lipodystrophy.

Drug Interactions: Formal in vitro drug interaction studies have not been conducted. No data are available on drug interactions between Serostim and HIV protease inhibitors or the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term animal studies for carcinogenicity have not been performed with Serostim. There is no evidence from animal studies to date of Serostim-induced mutagenicity or impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category B. Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits. Doses up to 5 to 10 times the human dose, based on body surface area, have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to Serostim. There are, however, no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Women: It is not known whether Serostim is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when Serostim is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: In two small studies, 11 children with HIV associated failure to thrive were treated subcutaneously with human growth hormone. In one study, five children (age range, 6 to 17 years) were treated with 0.04 mg/kg/day for 26 weeks. In a second study, six children (age range, 8 to 14 years) were treated with 0.07 mg/kg/day for 4 weeks. Treatment appeared to be well tolerated in both studies. These preliminary data collected in a limited number of patients with HIV associated failure to thrive appear to be consistent with safety observations in growth hormone treated adults with AIDS wasting.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: In two placebo-controlled clinical trials in which 205 patients were treated with Serostim the most common adverse reactions judged to be associated with Serostim were musculoskeletal discomfort and increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly of the hands or feet) (see PRECAUTIONS: General). These symptoms were generally rated by investigators as mild to moderate in severity and usually subsided with continued treatment. Discontinuations as a result of these events were rare.

Because of the diverse clinical manifestations of AIDS, and the frequent occurrence of adverse events associated with underlying disease process, it was often difficult to distinguish adverse events possibly associated with the administration of Serostim from underlying signs or symptoms of AIDS or associated intercurrent illnesses.

Clinical adverse events which occurred during the first 12 weeks of study in at least 10% of those who received Serostim during the two placebo-controlled trials are listed below by treatment group, without regard to causality assessment.

Table 2: Controlled Trials Adverse Events

Adverse Event	Serostim (n=205)		Placebo (n=150)	
	%		%	
Musculoskeletal discomfort	53.7		33.3	
Fever	31.2		29.3	
Increased tissue turgor	27.3		2.7	
Diarrhea	25.9		20.0	
Neuropathy	25.9		17.3	
Nausea	25.9		16.0	
Headache	19.0		20.7	
Abdominal pain	17.1		18.7	
Fatigue	17.1		16.0	
Leukopenia	15.1		24.7	
Albuminuria	15.1		9.3	
Granulocytopenia	14.1		21.3	
Lymphadenopathy	14.1		16.0	
Increased sweating	14.1		8.7	
Anorexia	12.2		9.3	
Anemia	12.2		8.7	
Vomiting	11.7		12.0	
SGOT increased	11.7		6.0	
Insomnia	11.2		9.3	
Tachycardia	11.2		6.0	
Hyperglycemia	10.2		6.0	
SGPT increased	10.2		5.3	

Adverse events that occurred in 1% to less than 10% of study participants receiving Serostim in the two placebo-controlled clinical efficacy studies are listed below by body system. The list of adverse events has been compiled regardless of causal relationship to Serostim.

Body as a Whole: rigors, flu-like symptoms, back pain, malaise, asthenia, carpal tunnel syndrome (see PRECAUTIONS: General), chest pain, hot flashes, allergic reaction. **Gastrointestinal System:** oral leukoplakia, flatulence, dyspepsia, dry mouth, constipation, ulcerative stomatitis, increased amylase, dysphagia, esophagitis, colitis, pancreatitis, rectal disorder, gastritis, tongue ulceration, gingivitis. **Musculoskeletal System:** muscle weakness. **Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** dizziness, convulsions, hypertension, neuralgia, tremor, encephalopathy, nystagmus, meningism. **Respiratory System:** dyspnea, coughing, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection, pharyngitis, rhinitis, pneumonia, bronchitis, increased sputum, respiratory disorder, bronchospasm, pneumonitis, pleurisy. **White Blood Cell and Reticuloendothelial System Disorders:** cervical lymphadenopathy, eosinophilia. **Skin and Appendages:** skin disorder, folliculitis, rash, alopecia, photosensitivity reaction, erythematous rash, pruritus, abnormal pigmentation, seborrhea, dermatitis, skin ulceration, acne, skin discoloration, verruca. **Psychiatric:** depression, anxiety, somnolence, nervousness, appetite increased, amnesia, abnormal thinking. **Metabolic and Nutritional:** hypertriglyceridemia, increased alkaline phosphatase, dehydration, increased creatine phosphokinase, increased LDH, glycosuria, hypokalemia, cachexia, thirst, acidosis. **Immune System Dysfunction:** moniliasis, bacterial infection, Pneumocystis carinii infection, viral infection, infection, Herpes simplex, sepsis, abscess, fungal infection, Herpes zoster. **Urinary System:** hematuria, urinary tract infection, nocturia. **Liver and Biliary System:** abnormal hepatic function, hepatomegaly, hepatitis. **Vision:** retinitis, abnormal vision, photophobia. **Platelet, Bleeding and Clotting:** thrombocytopenia, purpura. **Cardiovascular, General:** abnormal ECG, heart murmur, hypertension, hypotension. **Application Site:** injection site pain, injection site reaction. **Neoplasms:** Kaposi's sarcoma. **Male Reproductive:** epididymitis, penis disorder, inguinal hernia. **Hearing and Vestibular:** earache, ear disorder, decreasing hearing. **Endocrine:** gynecomastia, male breast pain.

The types and incidences of adverse events reported in an open-label, extension trial and in a single, foreign trial, for up to one year, were not different from, or greater in frequency, than those observed in the primary, placebo-controlled, clinical trials.

OVERDOSAGE

Glucose intolerance can occur with overdosage. Long-term overdosage with growth hormone could result in signs and symptoms of acromegaly.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Serostim® [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] should be administered subcutaneously daily at bedtime according to the following dosage recommendations:

Weight Range	Dose*
>55 kg	6 mg SC daily
45-55 kg	5 mg SC daily
35-45 kg	4 mg SC daily

*Based on an approximate daily dosage of 0.1 mg/kg.

In patients who weigh less than 35 kg, Serostim should be administered at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg subcutaneously daily at bedtime.

Dose reductions for side effects felt to be related to treatment with Serostim, which are unresponsive to symptomatic treatment, may be effected by reducing the total daily dose or the number of doses given per week.

In patients who continue to lose weight at week 2, reevaluate for concurrent opportunistic infections or other clinical events. Injection sites should be rotated.

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

Each vial of Serostim 4 mg, 5 mg or 6 mg is reconstituted with 1 mL sterile water for injection. To reconstitute Serostim, inject the diluent into the vial of Serostim aiming the liquid against the glass vial wall. Swirl the vial with a gentle rotary motion until contents are dissolved completely. The Serostim solution should be clear immediately after reconstitution. **DO NOT INJECT** Serostim if the reconstituted product is cloudy immediately after reconstitution or refrigeration. Occasionally, after refrigeration, small colorless particles may be present in the Serostim solution. This is not unusual for proteins like Serostim.

STABILITY AND STORAGE

Before reconstitution: Serostim should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Expiration dates are stated on product labels.

After reconstitution: Use within 24 hours after reconstitution with diluent. The reconstituted solution should be stored under refrigerated conditions (36° - 46°F/2° - 8°C).

Sterile Diluent, 1 mL (Sterile Water for Injection, USP) should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Avoid freezing vials of Serostim and Sterile Diluent.

HOW SUPPLIED

Serostim is available in the following forms:

Serostim vials containing 4 mg (approximately 12 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.

Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0004-7

Serostim vials containing 5 mg (approximately 15 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.

Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0005-7

Serostim vials containing 6 mg (approximately 18 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.

Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0006-7

Manufactured for: Serono Laboratories, Inc., Randolph, MA 02368

Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

February 1998



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Is prison neglect creating SuperHIV?

by Timothy Rodrigues

Some prisoner rights advocates say they are angry and frightened that the California Department of Corrections (CDoC) has created the perfect environment for breeding an AIDS "super-virus," and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors wants to sue those responsible for the situation.

Activists from the HIV in Prison Committee (HIP) of the California Prison Focus have lambasted the CDoC for consistently depriving prisoners of adequate medical care, including denying or disrupting anti-HIV drug regimens.

The *Bay Area Reporter* has received a letter from an HIV-positive prisoner in the CDoC system who talks about the "routine delay in receiving meds prisoners go through each time they're transferred to a new prison."

According to the prisoner, whose identity is being kept confidential to protect him from possible retribution, "You arrive at a new prison, have to wait days to see a doctor, and get your meds renewed. In the protease age, that can have fatal consequences."

The prisoner said his only option to protect his health and ensure he could maintain his drug regimen was to wrap a three-day, 18-pill supply of an HIV cocktail in toilet paper and plastic and insert it in his anal cavity – a technique called "hooping it up" or "putting it in the safe" in prison parlance – just before he was transferred to a new prison.

The effort paid off. He was not given the necessary medicine for two and a half days after his transfer and only received the drugs after complaining to medical staff.

"I'm planning to keep my viral load undetectable for as long as I can," he said.

The interruption of anti-HIV medicine is not only detrimental to the health of the individual, but it also creates an environment that could lead to the development of a strain of HIV that does not respond to current treatment options – a so-called "super virus."

"Inconsistent care definitely leads to the emergence of resistant virus," according to Dr. Mitch Katz, director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. He added that such a strain would be unresponsive to current treatments, and "puts San Francisco and other localities at greater risk."

Researchers from the University of California, San Francisco announced at the Geneva World AIDS Conference that they had discovered a man who was recently infected with HIV, and who did not respond to any of the current treatment options. Upon tracking the likely source of his infection, authorities discovered his sex partner also carried a strain of HIV that was impervious to available antivirals; presumably it had mutated beyond the reach of today's medicines.

What is being done?

"Medical neglect is a form of brutality," said Judy Greenspan, chairperson of HIP.

The organization just completed its fifth investigative trip to Corcoran State Prison – alleged to be site of some of the most negligent care, along with the Central California Women's Facility – and reported that HIV-positive prisoners face a variety of problems including waits of four to six weeks to see doctors, delays of two to three weeks to refill AIDS treatment therapy prescriptions, and confidentially violations.

"They are basically creating a death camp," Greenspan said about Corcoran, charging that the CDoC "dumps" HIV-positive prisoners there, provides inadequate care, and refuses compassionate release for the very ill.

She explained that these conditions "seem to be happening really in all the prisons at this point" and that most of the HIV-positive prison population is underground; HIP estimates there may be as many as 10,000 HIV-positive prisoners in the system – far more than the 1,500 they say the CDoC documents.

"They [HIV-positive prisoners] look around, see there is no medical care, so they don't come forward," said Greenspan.

Stacy Turner, a spokesperson on prison issues for Attorney General Dan Lungren who represents the state in lawsuits by prisoners, said the CDoC is currently bound by a 1990 U.S. District Court consent decree mandating treatment guidelines for a number of diseases including HIV.

Representative of the CDoC and the State Office of AIDS did not return calls.

Supervisor Mark Leno sponsored a resolution on the issue that was approved 10 to 0 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, September 22. The measure urges the San Francisco City Attorney to institute an investigation and consider legal proceedings against the CDoC for improper administration of HIV medication and for providing inadequate medication and information upon release of HIV-infected persons.

City Attorney Louise Renne said her office is working with Leno on possible options.

"The California Department of Corrections routinely administers incomplete and inconsistent HIV drug treatment to its HIV-infected inmates. Furthermore, released inmates are given inadequate medication and almost no information on follow-up treatment," Leno said in a press statement.

"Many formerly incarcerated HIV-infected persons come to San Francisco. The city is left to deal with a heightened AIDS crisis featuring a more resilient virus," he added. ▼

A coalition of prisoner rights organizations is hosting **Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex**, a national conference and strategy session, September 25-27, at the University of California, Berkeley. For more information call (510) 643-2094, e-mail at critresist@aol.com, or check their web page at www.igc.org/justice/critical.

HIP meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m., at 2489 Mission Street, #28 in San Francisco; the phone number is (510) 533-2590.

U.S. House opposes medical marijuana

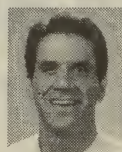
by Liz Highleyman

On September 15, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a resolution against the legalization of medical cannabis. House Joint Resolution 117 states that "Congress is unequivocally opposed to legalizing marijuana for medicinal use." The resolution was sponsored by Representative Bill McCollum (R-Florida), chair of the House Judiciary's crime subcommittee, and was approved by a lopsided vote of 310-93. The resolution is non-binding and is not equivalent to a law against medical marijuana.

McCollum stated that "doctors and scientists with the great-

est expertise have determined that marijuana is not a medicine." This claim is disputed by numerous health professionals and has been refuted by several studies. THC, an active ingredient of marijuana, is available in the prescription pill dronabinol, sold under the trade name Marinol.

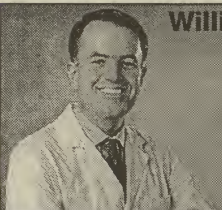
The resolution came in response to ballot initiatives in California and Arizona approving medical marijuana, which is used to restore appetite in people with AIDS-related wasting, control nausea in people receiving cancer chemotherapy, and reduce eye pressure in people with glaucoma. Similar initiatives are pending in Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, and Washington, D.C. ▼



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Lyon-Martin Health Services explores risk factors for breast cancer in lesbians

by Bob Roehr

Lesbians may have a risk of developing breast cancer that is two to three times greater than women in general, according to a theory first proposed in 1992 by Suzanne Haynes, Ph.D. The National Cancer Institute researcher based that hypothesis on a survey of primarily white middle-class lesbians, compared against national averages of all women (including lesbians). The main risk factors were higher body mass index (BMI; a ratio of height to weight), greater alcohol consumption, and socioeconomic factors.

But a detailed examination of health records at one San Francisco clinic now calls that theory into question. The work was done at the Lyon-Martin

Women's Health Services and published in the fall issue of the *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association*. Dr. Stephanie A. Roberts was the lead author.

The study looked at the medical records of all women over the age of 35 who used the clinic from 1995 to 1997. The group of slightly over 1,000 was composed of roughly even numbers of those who identified as lesbian or heterosexual; all others were excluded.

The researchers found that there were no statistically significant differences between the two groups in more than a dozen categories of family and personal medical history. As expected, the heterosexual group had higher incidents of events related to pregnancy and use of birth control pills.

"When you add it all together

from our study, lesbians as a group may have a higher concentration of risk factors," said Roberts.

Lesbians had a higher BMI by nearly three pounds, but it was still below the threshold used to define being overweight. Roberts speculated that perhaps this was due to the fact that lesbians exercise more, and muscle weighs more than fat.

Another related factor may be that heterosexuals were nearly 50 percent more likely to be current smokers, although both groups had the same incidence of smoking in their pasts. Smoking has long been associated with lower body weight in females. The differing rates of current smoking surprised the researchers.

Perhaps the greatest surprise was that lesbians are 2.13 times

more likely to have had a breast biopsy. The records were not detailed enough, nor the study large enough, to indicate if this was because of increased risk for breast cancer or a more proactive approach to healthcare among the lesbians studied. The authors urged further research, particularly among older lesbians. ▼

Dr. Roberts is seeking lesbian volunteers, especially women over 40 years old, for a detailed follow-up study. Volunteers will complete a detailed questionnaire and ask a heterosexual friend and a sister (if they have one) to complete the same questionnaire. To volunteer call Dr. Suzanne Dibble at (415) 476-5685.



Dr. Stephanie Roberts

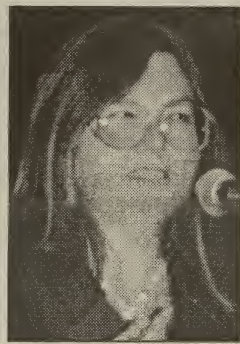
Allison, Jordan to appear at breast cancer town hall meeting on Sunday

by Liz Highleyman

Breast Cancer Action (BCA), a San Francisco-based national organization that advocates for people affected by breast cancer, will host its second annual town hall meeting on Sunday, September 27 from 2-5 p.m.

Featured speakers will include author-activists Dorothy Allison, June Jordan, and Anne Lamott. Allison will be the meeting's keynote speaker. She is author of *Bastard Out of Carolina* and the new *Cavedweller*. Jordan, a poet and professor of African-American studies at the University of California at Berkeley, will speak about her own battle with breast cancer. Cultural commentator Lamott will serve as emcee.

According to Director Barbara



Dorothy Allison

Brenner, BCA aims to "refocus research into the causes, prevention, and cure of this disease." Last year's

sold-out event featured former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders and was described as a "revival meeting for breast cancer activism."

BCA produces educational materials and public forums on issues including genetic testing, environmental causes of breast cancer, and treatment controversies. The group has several task forces — treatment issues, media response, legislative action, community outreach — and is seeking new participants. ▼

The forum will take place at Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling (415) 392-4400. For more information about BCA, call (415) 243-9301 or visit the website at www.bcaaction.org.

How to fight breast cancer

The American Cancer Society estimates that 180,200 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed and 43,900 women died from the disease last year. According to the Breast Cancer Fund, 1.6 million American women are living with a diagnosis of breast cancer, and one million more have the disease and don't know it yet.

Take a hike

The Breast Cancer Fund will sponsor the third annual "Peak Hike '98," a challenging 10-mile, daytime, fund-raising hike on Mt. Tamalpais in Mill Valley, this Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27, beginning at 6:30 a.m. Hikers are asked to raise a minimum of \$100 in pledges; call (800) 487-0492 for more information.

Peak Hike '98 is part of Step Ahead, a series of physical challenge events led by breast cancer survivors.

The Breast Cancer Fund's mission "is to end illness and death from breast cancer in our lifetime by finding better ways to detect and treat the disease, and, ultimately, a way to prevent the disease." The highest priority is to create new sources of funding for cutting-edge research.

Make strides

More than 5,000 walkers are expected to participate in the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" on Sunday, November 1, 1998 at Golden Gate Park's Marx Meadow. Participants in the non-competitive, five-mile

walk event to raise money for breast cancer research, education, and patient services, are asked to collect pledges in advance. For more information and a pledge brochure contact the toll-free hotline at (877) 906-7222 or via e-mail at Strides-BayArea@cancer.org.

Resources:

American Cancer Society: (415) 394-7100; (800) ACS-2345; or www.cancer.org — provides a variety of resources and support groups including The Triangle Project, an outreach program to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community on issues concerning cancer. The project is seeking volunteers.

Cancer Information Service: (800) 4-CANCER — a regionalized service of the National Institute of Cancer providing an extensive array of information and referrals (9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.).

Womankind, One on One program: (415) 750-5775 — matches newly diagnosed women with breast cancer "veterans" for emotional support, practical and treatment advice. Lesbian breast cancer survivor volunteers are needed.

Better Health Foundation, Breast Cancer Resource Guide, in English and Spanish: (415) 775-5921, or www.rbi.com/bhf

America Online keyword: Better Health, extensive information and links to other web sites on a variety of health topics. ▼

— Timothy Rodrigues

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Fauci looks at future of the epidemic

United Press International

Director Anthony S. Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, within the National Institutes Of Health, appeared before the House Committee on International Relations Wednesday, September 16 to discuss the HIV epidemic, recent developments in HIV research, and the challenges that remain in the fight against AIDS.

Here is an excerpt of what he said:

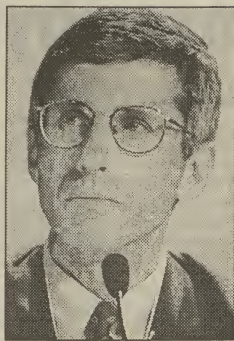
Trends

"HIV continues to exact an enormous toll throughout the world, in human and economic terms. In the United States, the rate of new HIV infections - approximately 40,000 per year - continues at an unacceptably high level, despite an encouraging

downturn in new AIDS cases and AIDS-related deaths.

"New AIDS diagnoses and deaths have dropped significantly in the United States and other developed countries in the past two years. These trends are probably due to several factors, particularly the increased use of potent, albeit expensive, combinations of HIV drugs. Consensus guidelines have been developed for the use of anti-HIV medications, and, when appropriately applied, have greatly improved the prognosis for HIV-infected individuals.

"Unfortunately, many HIV-infected individuals have not responded adequately to the medications, cannot tolerate their toxicities, or have difficulty complying with complex dosing schedules and substantial pill burdens. In addition, the ability of HIV to mutate and become resistant to the current drugs is a persistent threat. Although there is some ev-



Dr. Anthony Fauci

idence of immune system reconstruction in certain patients who receive combination antiretroviral therapy, the goals of completely 'rebuilding' the immune system or eradicating the virus from the

body appear unlikely with current approaches to treatment.

"For these reasons, the development of the next generation of therapies remains a priority. Currently, all licensed antiretroviral medications are directed at one of two viral enzymes, but many new strategies are being pursued, including drugs that prevent the virus from entering a cell, and approaches to boosting an infected person's immune response."

HIV prevention

"In developing countries where per capita health care spending may be only a few dollars a year, discussion of antiretroviral drugs is largely academic, since combination therapy and attendant care may cost upwards of \$15,000 per year. Therefore, a continued emphasis on effective, low-cost tools of HIV prevention is crucial to slowing the epidemic.

"Researchers have shown that

several approaches to HIV prevention can reduce the number of new infections when properly executed, including: education and behavior modification; the social marketing and provision of condoms; treatment of other sexually transmitted diseases; drug abuse treatment (for example, methadone maintenance for injection drug users); and the use of antiretroviral drugs to interrupt the transmission of virus from mother to infant.

"Other methods of preventing HIV transmission also may have an important impact on slowing the epidemic. For example, researchers are developing and testing topical microbicides to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. UNAIDS and others also have facilitated the widespread use in Africa of the 'female condom' to protect [people] in situa-

page 32 ►

AIDS doctor

◀ page 1

added Levy.

Levy supports therapy during acute or primary infection, and noted that "within days after the virus enters the body, a major benefit to the newly infected individual can be provided by lowering the viral load dramatically and perhaps even arresting the establishment of HIV infection."

His great concern, however, is administration of drugs to persons who have been infected for "several months or years." Many people may be without symptoms and in good health, but as soon as an HIV-positive diagnosis is made, they are usually placed on therapy immediately, he explained.

Reactions

Dr. Thomas Coates, director of the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS), told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Levy's position merits additional study.

"It's a position that may be contrary to the prevailing wisdom, but it should be taken seriously and studied," Coates said. He added that Levy is not talking about the primary infection stage, generally viewed as the first couple of months after someone's been infected, nor is Levy talking about advanced HIV. Rather, Levy is talking about the middle stage of the infection.

"Heretofore, the focus has been on the virus and stomping on the virus," said Coates.

Dr. Mitch Katz, the city's health director, echoed Coates' view that Levy's hypothesis merits further research. "Jay Levy is a very smart researcher who has been right on many things," Katz told the *B.A.R.* He also emphasized that Levy is warning against early treatment for people in the middle stage of the disease.

David Pasquarelli, a member of the AIDS dissident group ACT UP/San Francisco, said if Levy is right, the city should alter the way it treats people with HIV.

"It's not surprising, given that [combination therapy proponent] David Ho's theories of viral replication have proven to be false," Pasquarelli said. ACT UP/San Francisco has long advocated against use of the powerful HIV/AIDS medications, claiming the drug toxicity can be fatal. "The earlier you take them, the longer you take them and die. It's about

time a mainstream doctor came around to our point of view.

"If Dr. Levy is right, then San Francisco General Hospital and the Department of Public Health need to change their treatment options," added Pasquarelli.

Specific recommendations

In Levy's view, current drug regimens should be prescribed only for patients who show symptoms of HIV infection or whose CD-4 cell counts have dropped substantially. CD-4 cells, also called T-helper cells, coordinate the overall action of the human immune system. They are the primary target of HIV, and when they succumb to infection, the stage is set for the opportunistic infections that cause AIDS.

He suggests starting treatment only after the CD-4 cell count falls below 400 and the viral load is above a level of 30,000 copies of viral genetic material per milliliter of blood on two separate tests. "Administering drugs at this selected time seems the best strategy because the virus can be controlled and the immune system can recover ...," he wrote in the article.

Levy added that instead of subjecting infected people to antiviral therapy early - when it is not needed because the immune system is functioning, when therapy requires strict adherence or drug resistance will take place, and when drugs can be harmful - a delay can provide an interval of several years in which immune cells can control the virus and selection of resistant mutants can be avoided.

In presenting his case, Levy noted that the current three-drug treatment for HIV may soon be extended to a four- or five-drug regimen, similar to the approach used for cancer patients. And, he asked, "Have we really succeeded going in the direction with malignancies?" He also noted that unlike the commitment for HIV therapy, no cancer patient takes three or four chemotherapy drugs for a lifetime.

Current assumptions in clinical strategy that concern Levy include:

• If virus replication takes place, mutations might develop that could lead to a drug-resistant strain of virus. Levy noted that mutations occurring at a steady rate during HIV replication are random and would not select for viruses resistant to current drugs. Instead, it is the drugs themselves that encourage these types of re-

sistant viruses, Levy added.

• Any replication of HIV will lead to irreversible destruction of the immune system. What is overlooked by this assumption, Levy said, is that these drugs can be toxic and can be directly detrimental to a natural immune response to HIV, which is present in most individuals even when they show no symptoms. This effective antiviral immune response is characteristic of long-term survivors who have been infected for more than 20 years, have no symptoms, have not been on therapy, and show strong activity by CD-8 cells to suppress virus replication while not killing off CD-4

cells. He said his studies have shown that people on triple therapy have a decrease in this CD-8 cell antiviral response.

Levy reported that recent research by his team and others have shown that persons who choose to stop therapy - even after three years - experienced a resumption of virus production, with the viral load often higher than the level at the onset of therapy. This finding suggests the function of the immune system against HIV has been compromised.

Levy suggested that the most valuable treatment in the future might be one that includes anti-

ral drugs, immune restorative treatment, and appropriate immunizations. This approach could induce an effective response to HIV and all the other pathogens that attack HIV patients, thereby overcoming the downfall of current therapies that leave patients "in a naive immune state, like an uninfected individual, rather than someone prepared to control HIV," Levy said.

If the virus cannot be eliminated, the ultimate objective is to return all HIV-infected people to the state of long-term survivors who do not need treatment even after 20 years of infection, Levy concluded. ▼

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Sustiva: The newest over-hyped AIDS drug

by Stephen J. LeBlanc

Full disclosure: The author is a volunteer in one of the first trials of Sustiva, DMP-003, and has been taking Sustiva in combination with Crixivan and nucleoside analogs since May 1996, with very good results.

On September 18, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted accelerated approval to the 11th drug brought to market specifically to combat HIV. The drug, brand named Sustiva (generic name efavirenz and research code DMP-266), is a non-nucleoside-analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI), and is the third drug approved in that class. Clinical trials conducted by the company suggest that the drug is at least as effective as the other NNRTIs, is associated with fewer serious side effects, and because of its long half-life can be taken once a day.

While AIDS patients have welcomed the availability of Sustiva, some doctors, scientists, and activists have raised serious questions about marketing claims made for the drug, and have expressed outrage at the price. With a price to AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) of at least \$3,942 per year – and a 20 percent higher “list wholesale” price to pharmacies – Sustiva is about 75 percent more expensive than other NNRTIs and nearly as pricey as the most popular protease inhibitor. Activist groups have warned that at the price announced for the drug, reimbursements and ADAPs may delay or not cover Sustiva, and may instead steer patients wanting to use an NNRTI to more cost-effective alternatives.

With Sustiva's approval, there are now 13 available anti-HIV prescription drugs: the five nucleoside analogs d4T (Zerit or stavudine), 3TC (Epivir or lamivudine), ddI (Videx), AZT (also known as Retrovir, zidovudine, or ZDV), and ddC (Hivid), the four protease inhibitors Crixivan (indinavir), Nelfinavir (Viracept), Norvir (ritonavir), and Fortovase (Intrase or saquinavir); the three NNRTIs Viramune (nevirapine), Rescriptor (delavirdine), and now Sustiva (efavirenz or DMP-266); and hydroxyurea (Hydrea), an anti-cancer drug not FDA-approved for use against HIV, but now widely prescribed for its demonstrated anti-HIV effect.

Protease sparing combo?

Although just approved, Sustiva has for several months been promoted by its manufacturer DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company as the foundation for “a protease sparing” combination. But some respected doctors and scientists have attacked the idea of “sparing” protease inhibitors. They have argued that everything we know about treating infectious diseases indicates that the most successful strategy is to use the strongest possible combination of drugs that can be tolerated and use them together to suppress the disease organism enough so that it cannot develop resistance. [See *Cocktail Therapy*, Bay Area Reporter 12/07/95, available at [\[tupgg.org/BAR/art0015.html\]\(http://tupgg.org/BAR/art0015.html\)\]](http://www.ac-</p>
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“I don't agree with the idea of ‘sparing’ protease inhibitors,” Dr. Marcus Conant told several hundred attendees at a San Francisco treatment forum last fall. “What are you ‘sparing’ them for? We know from other infectious diseases, like tuberculosis, that when you decide to treat you should treat aggressively enough to completely suppress the disease organism. What you absolutely don't want to do is start off with a less-effective combination and then try to switch to a stronger combination when you fail. That is a recipe for creating multi-drug resistant virus.”

When contacted for this article, Conant reaffirmed his position and continued: “We have data in Geneva showing sustained effectiveness from protease inhibitors going out to three years, but nothing similar on the protease inhibitor sparing combinations.

Now, there are patients who can't take protease inhibitors, perhaps up to 7 to 10 percent with severe side effects, but I don't think you should begin therapy with that perspective. You should start therapy using the most aggressive combination possible and can fall back to a combination where there is less data if necessary. Physicians and patients should be very suspect of drug companies, like DuPont or Glaxo-Wellcome, who are promoting ‘protease sparing’ combinations for marketing reasons, rather than because we have any medical data or knowledge suggesting that is the best strategy.”

DuPont warns that Sustiva must be used in combination with other potent anti-HIV drugs or else resistance will develop quickly. A critical question for people considering Sustiva is whether to use it with two nucleoside analogs (such as d4T + 3TC) in a three-drug combination, or whether to use it with two NAs plus one or two protease inhibitors. DuPont has not conducted any studies comparing Sustiva used with nucleoside analogs, versus Sustiva used with protease inhibitors and nucleoside analogs. When question by AIDS activists why such a study was not done, DuPont has not given a sensible answer. With the announced price of Sustiva, some activists, including this author, believe the answer has become clear – corporate greed.

In company press releases, marketing surveys, and arguments to state ADAPs, DuPont has pitched Sustiva as a replacement for a protease inhibitor, and has used that rationale as a justification for charging a protease inhibitor price.

Warning: don't use without a protease inhibitor

However, one study, not conducted by DuPont, suggests that Sustiva is best used in a combination with a protease inhibitor. ACTG (AIDS Clinical Trial Group) 364 is an ongoing 48-week study in 196 nucleoside analog (NA) experienced patients. The study compared three different combinations: Sustiva plus new NAs, Nelfinavir (a protease inhibitor) plus new NAs, or Sustiva plus Nelfinavir plus new NAs.

At 24 weeks of treatment, nearly 80 percent of patients on the Sustiva plus Nelfinavir plus new NAs arm had viral loads less than 500, while in the Sustiva plus NAs arm, just 60 percent of patients had viral load of less than 500.

Also of concern, in the Sustiva plus NAs arm, the number of patients with viral loads of less than 500 decreased from a high of 80 percent at week eight to 60 percent at week 24 with the slope of the curve continuing downward. This suggests that resistance to Sustiva was quickly developing in a substantial number of patients. These results were submitted by DuPont at the request of the FDA and are available at www.Sustiva.com/Sustiva1/pdf/label12c.pdf, Figure 2.

Because DuPont chose not to perform any studies itself comparing Sustiva with a protease inhibitor to Sustiva without a protease inhibitor, this one uncompleted ACTG study provides the only data patients have to help them answer the question of whether to use Sustiva to “spare” protease inhibitors, as the company suggests, or in combination with protease inhibitors.

A fair conclusion from this study suggests that, at least for people who have already used NAs, using Sustiva alone will cause 40 percent or more people to develop resistance to Sustiva and all other NNRTIs within six months (and possibly a higher percentage within a few more months), whereas half or more of those people would have not developed resistance if they had used Sustiva with a protease inhibitor.

Dr. Robert Schooley, who chairs the ACTG's executive committee, echoed the findings of these data, stating that Sustiva will not replace current treatments. “We need to use them together ... to have the most effective control of viral replication. With some drugs the virus has to make multiple mutations to escape the drug. With Sustiva, one mutation and it's gone and the other two drugs in the class are gone – you can't use them again. You lose all three.”

Side effects

While the company has stressed that Sustiva is well-tolerated, the company also reports that a majority of patients studied experienced some type of side effect on Sustiva. Fifty-two percent of patients receiving Sustiva reported central nervous system and psychiatric symptoms. These symptoms included dizziness, impaired concentration, sleepiness, abnormal dreams, and insomnia. In controlled trials, these symptoms were severe in 2.6 percent of patients receiving Sustiva 600 mg. once per day. These symptoms usually begin during the first or second day of therapy and generally resolve after the first two to four weeks. The company reports that dosing at bedtime improves the tolerability of these symptoms. The company does not explain, however, that these symptoms can also be reduced by taking smaller doses of the drug three times a day, rather than the single daily dosing formulation that the company is aggressively promoting.

DuPont also states that patients receiving Sustiva should be alerted to the potential for additive side effects when Sustiva is used with

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February 28, 1950 — August 3, 1998



Dan died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles of pneumonia after a short illness. Born in southern California, Dan moved to San Francisco in 1980 and returned to LA in 1992. He

worked in the banking industry including stints with Bank of America, Atlas Savings & Loan, Capital Federal Savings, and San Francisco Federal Savings. His biggest annoyance was the automa-

tic doors at the ATM at the old Atlas office at Market & Duboce.

An avid bowler with a high handicap, Dan was a regular in the leagues at both Park Bowl and Japantown Bowl. He also bowled in tournaments throughout the country and was involved in IGBO and the SFNTT.

Dan is survived by his mother and two brothers in Seattle, his close friends Randy and Stephen in Los Angeles, and his collection of over 200 ceramic, metal, and stuffed pigs.

Memorial donations may be made to the AIDS organization of your choice.

Kevin McCann

August 21, 1960 — September 28, 1997

Kevin McCann was born in Chicago on August 21, 1960. He attended college in New York City to study acting, then



moved to California in 1979. He appeared in many TV shows and in feature films. We are happy to know that he will forever be in syndication or on video tape, constantly re-running, doing what he

loved to do, performing for an audience. He is greatly missed by his friends and family, but we know that in his current angelic production, he is shining brighter than any star in the sky.

Kevin moved from San Francisco to Heaven via the Cancer Expressway on September 28, 1997. His laughter and love is still alive in the hearts of his dear friends and family throughout the country and especially with his mother, Retha McAley of Lemont, Illinois, and partner, Joe Osuna of San Francisco. We'll always love you forever, Kevin!

No fanfare (yet) as San Mateo County AIDS Program moves

by Marv. Shaw

When the San Mateo County AIDS Program (SMCAP) moves into its new quarters this Tuesday, September 29, it will have facilities matching the new hospital and all the existing services of the Health Services Center, director John Conley proudly told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a recent walk-through interview.

The new location of the AIDS program will be on the first floor of the San Mateo County General Hospital, near the intersection of 39th Avenue and Edison Street in San Mateo. Conley pointed out that the convenience will promote greater use through better access, and will encourage more patients to participate in the program, as it

aims to address their needs through social as well as medical resources.

Conley has been SMCAP director for two years. He came to the job with five years of experience with Shanti and several years with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Washington D.C. As an openly gay man himself, he is especially sensitive to patient needs in confidentiality, treatment, and positive human relationships. All patient protections will be maintained, he vowed.

The AIDS program shift is typical of what is happening throughout the upgrading of facilities in the whole County Health Services plant. Buildings Conley characterized as antiquated are being removed and replaced with structures that are

seismically sound and highly adaptable, he pointed out in a tour of the area. And, he candidly acknowledged, as the needs of the facilities become more apparent, the program may soon tear out some walls that have only recently been completed.

Although the facility will open this week, no formal ceremony is planned for at least 60 days. Conley said that patient needs dictated the time schedule; although San Mateo County staff wants to have a formal dedication of the wings that will house the AIDS program, it was deemed more important to get the transition finished and fully operative first. ▼

For more information on the San Mateo AIDS Program, call (650) 573 3955.

ACT UP

◀ page 28

alcohol or psychoactive drugs.

In controlled clinical trials, 27 percent (124 of 455) of patients treated with 600 mg. Sustiva experienced new skin rash, compared with 17 percent (61 of 351) of patients treated in control groups. Very serious rash occurred in 1 percent. The median time to onset of rash in adults was 11 days and the median duration, 14 days. The discontinuation rate for rash in clinical trials was 1.7 percent. Sustiva should be discontinued in patients developing severe rash associated with blistering or fever. Appropriate antihistamines and/or corticosteroids may improve the tolerability and hasten the resolution of rash. (The author experienced moderate rash at approximately day 10 of treatment with Sustiva. After the rash failed to respond to antihistamines, the author did one five day course of prednisone which cleared the rash. The rash did not return.)

Price gouging

Sustiva is the third NNRTI brought to market. The previous two NNRTIs were Rescriptor (delavirdine), approved in April 1997, and Viramune (nevirapine), approved June 1996. These three

NNRTIs share many characteristics. All are very strong inhibitors of HIV. All, when used as monotherapy or in ineffective combinations, quickly lose effectiveness due to HIV mutations that cause resistance. Sustiva and Rescriptor can be taken with or without foods. While the early data presented regarding Viramune and Rescriptor was not very impressive, in many cases that can be attributed to poor combinations and poor study design. More recent studies have shown impressive results for Viramune and Rescriptor when used in strong combinations.

Where the drugs differ dramatically, however, is their price. When introduced in 1997, the price of Rescriptor was set at an average wholesale price of \$2,700 per patient per year (with a discounted cost to ADAPs of about \$2,200). The average wholesale price announced for Sustiva, however, is close to \$4,900.

AIDS activists from across the country charge that this price for Sustiva is unconscionable. When the first protease inhibitors were brought to market, with an average annual wholesale price range of \$5,400 to \$8,000, people with AIDS were told repeatedly that high price was justified by the high development cost of the drugs, the uncertainty of bringing

such drugs to market without reliable easy measures of their effectiveness (viral load testing was just becoming available), the expense of running studies for FDA approval, and the expense and difficulty of manufacturing the drugs.

None of these justifications are true of Sustiva. Community activists have been told for two years that one of the advantages of the drug is that it was substantially easier to manufacture than any protease inhibitor. During earliest development of the drug, viral load testing was widely available and accepted as a rapid measurement of drug effectiveness, reducing development costs. The success of other anti-HIV drugs has proven that a substantial number of people who begin on a drug such as Sustiva may wind up taking it for many, many years, thus increasing the lifetime revenue available from any one additional patient. Given the far less risky development environment of Sustiva, its easier manufacture, and the likelihood of a substantially increased market, activists had hoped for a price for Sustiva that was in line with or less than that of other NNRTIs. Instead, the company has apparently followed an all-the-market-will-bear pricing strategy and priced the drug at \$2,200 higher than Rescriptor, a possible alternative for the drug. ▼

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EuroZen

Exploring the abyss in instant replay

by Jim Provenzano

Excerpt from the high tribunal of Gay and Lesbian and Bisexual and Transgender and I Don't Know But Lacking a Life You Can Bet I'll Make a Fuss To Sports Authorities, or GLBTID-KBLLYCBIMFTSA:

The writer stands accused of the high treasonous act of subjectivity in his heretical depictions of the Holy Days in Amsterdam.

For his punishment, he shall be forced to repeatedly watch - until he has factually reported - the entire contents of The "Official" Gay Games video.

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998
Length: 60 minutes
Produced by IDTV

Minutes spent on the canal parade: 15

Drag queens: 57

Porn actors: 4

Scenic canal shots: 34

Minutes spent on opening ceremonies: 8

Bjorn Againers: 1

Banners: 34

Seconds of neat old footage of Tom Waddell: 120

Percentage of repeat of Martina's speech: 40

Ducks: 4

Quotes:

"You are proud to be the Gay

Olympic Games." - Jean Paul Gautier

"We don't accept freedom for free." - Dana International

Sponsor logos shown: 4

Iranians: 1

Scottish kilts raised: 1

Babies of lesbians: 1

Minutes spent on culture: 18

Acts: 4

Minutes spent on sports: 12

Male figure skaters: 2

Female figure skaters: 0

Male bodybuilders: 11

Female bodybuilders: 0

Men's ice hockey shots: 4

Male javelin throwers: 4

Women track athletes: 4

Martial artists: 6

Cyclists: 3

Male medalists shown getting medals: 5

Women medalists: 0

Powerlifters: 2

Pole vaulters: 1

Wheelchair dancers: 1

Women wrestlers: 5

Male wrestlers: 0

Minutes spent in "remembrance" section: 13

Numbers of quilt panels shown: 200

Number of names read in English: 30

In Spanish: 25

In German: 36

In Italian: 68 (they spoke faster)

In Chinese: 6

Minutes spent at a Catholic mass: 6

Quote from a priest: "These games do miss some black color."

Street drunks: 5

Minutes spent on unidentified dancers in a disco: 9

Number of dancers shown: 87

Number of male gogo dancers: 1

Number femme lesbian gogo dancing pairs: 1

Bears: 3

Male kisses: 3

Sailor/dancers at closing ceremonies: all of them

Minutes spent on their dance: 8

Weather Girls: 0

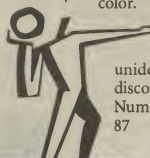
Speeches: 0

Addresses and information about Gay Games Sydney 2002, or the Federation of Gay Games: 0

Number, overall, of identified or interviewed living people who participated in Gay Games: 1, Maxim, the mascot.

Price Dfl 39,95 (Dutch guilders, translating to approximately \$20)

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Information retrieved from the writer's possessions at the time of his detainment:

Team SF Free Commemorative Book: Got a picture? A really good

one with you or a pal being sporty? Send it to Team SF for our own, perhaps more athletic version of Gay Games. Deadline October 15. Mail to 2215-R Market St., #519, San Francisco, CA, 94114-1612

Inaugural Eternal Flame Party: October 10, 141 Albion, (Sarah Lewenstein's house), 7 p.m. Bring donation for Athlete's Assistance Fund. Wear your medals.

Team SF meeting: Offer input to delegates Jerry Ervin and Leslie Adams as they prepare for the high tribunal, er annual meeting, of the Federation of Gay Games in Seattle. Find out what's up October 24, 3 p.m., Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood, SF. ▼

Jock frolic this Saturday

by Anne M. Ludwig

The 17th annual Angel Island Lesbivay Sports Day Festival will be held this Saturday, September 26 at the East Garrison Picnic Area on Angel Island. This year the event is being sponsored by the San Francisco FrontRunners and, for the first time, Team San Francisco. It's an opportunity for athletes - and athletic supporters - to bring their own sports equipment, teach someone about their favorite sport, and learn about others.

The event will start with the traditional Blue and Gold Fleet "fairy ferry" leaving from Pier 41 at Fisherman's Wharf at 8:30 a.m. The ferry ride arrives at the island at 8:55 a.m., is almost entirely gay, and is one of the highlights of the day. Additional Blue and Gold Fleet sailings to Angel Island are 9:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Return ferries depart Angel Island at 3 p.m. and 4:40 p.m.)

From Angel Island's Ayala Cove, where the ferries dock, it is a 1.7 walk or bike ride to the East Garrison Picnic Area. Activities there will include softball, football, Frisbee, hiking, swimming, volleyball, a fun run around Angel Island, a bike ride, flirting, and some new games.

The sports festival also includes the now-famous potluck picnic. Everyone should bring their own drinks, serving utensils, and something to grill (if they choose). Team SF and the SF FrontRunners will provide plates, plastic ware, cups, condiments, hot grill, etc. Some water is also

being provided by Cobb Mountain Water, which is a gay-owned, natural spring water company in Cobb, California.

People who wish to share in the potluck should bring items based on their last name: if it begins with a letter after Q, they are requested to bring a main dish; if it begins with a G or earlier letter, they should bring a salad; the rest should bring a dessert.

The FrontRunners have been sponsoring this successful event for the past 16 years. This year the running club was approached by Team San Francisco, the umbrella group for approximately 30 gay and lesbian athletic organizations in San Francisco.

During the picnic, local lesbian, gay, and bisexual sports clubs are invited to distribute and discuss information about their organizations.

The cost is \$10 for the round-trip ferry ride. Tickets are available in advance from Team San Francisco, the San Francisco FrontRunners, and at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street. A few pedal wagons are available at Ayala Cove, and the Marina Cyclery on 18th Street near Castro will give discounts for bike rentals and purchases. Just mention Team SF or SF FrontRunners. ▼

For more info, call Team San Francisco at (415) 522-2386 or visit their website at www.sirius.com/~teamsf/; call Anne Ludwig at (415) 668-3771; or call the SF FrontRunners at (415) 978-2429.

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Fundies flip lids over Budweiser's sponsorship of Folsom Street Fair

by Timothy Rodrigues

An anti-gay organization in Washington, D.C. has taken exception to this Sunday's Folsom Street Fair and has chided beer company Anheuser-Busch, a corporate sponsor, for their support.

Americans for Truth about

Homosexuality (AFAH), an organization "dedicated to opposing the homosexual activist movement," is associated with the Family Research Council (FRC), a self-described think tank on family issues. AFAH distributed a press release on Tuesday, September 22 calling on Anheuser-Busch to withdraw its sponsorship of "a sadomasochist-orient-

ed street fair in San Francisco."

The Folsom Street Fair is produced by the South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events (SMMILE), a nonprofit volunteer organization that distributed over \$150,000 to community organizations last year. The SMMILE board of directors have responded to AFAH by releasing a statement

asking for the community to "rally behind our courageous supporters who regularly come to the aid of our community."

"While we respect the right of Americans for Truth about Homosexuality to speak out against alternative lifestyles, we find it disheartening that our altruistic goals are called into question based solely on homophobia and a misunderstanding of how we live and love," continued the SMMILE statement.

AFAH has a different opinion. "I call on Anheuser-Busch to withdraw its sponsorship of this sadly grotesque event and demand its money back," said Peter LaBarbera, with the cultural studies department at FRC and president of AFAH, in a press release. "Some things are more important than money, and human decency is one of them."

"Anheuser-Busch's sponsorship of a 'street fair' celebrating sadistic sex perversions shows just how low that some in corporate America are willing to go to make a buck. Anheuser-Busch cannot call itself a 'family' company and then give money to an event that glorifies acts so perverse they are almost unspeakable."

LaBarbera also charges that Anheuser-Busch "has become a leading advertiser in homosexual publications, buying advertise-

ments that explicitly promote and affirm homosexuality and 'gay pride.'"

Anheuser-Busch responded to AFAH with a three-line statement: "Bud Light, in conjunction with our local wholesaler, is a sponsor of San Francisco's 15th annual Folsom Street Fair. Anheuser-Busch, Inc., does what we feel is best for our customers, employees, and shareholders. Our expressions of support are made without any ill will or detriment to any other customers."

The eight organizations scheduled to receive funds from SMMILE this year are: AIDS/HIV Nightline, the Ark of Refuge, Episcopal Community Services, the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, Pets are Wonderful Support (PAWS), and Quan Yin Healing Arts Center.

AFAH publishes the bi-monthly *Lambda Report on Homosexual Activism* with the goal of "monitoring the homosexual movement in American politics and culture." ▼

The AFAH website is www.americansfortruth.com; Peter LaBarbera can be reached at (202) 637-4679.

National news briefs

Lesbian moms lose in Missouri, New Jersey

United Press International

The Missouri Supreme Court has rejected the claims of a lesbian mother who sought joint custody of her three children. The state's highest court ruled Tuesday, September 22 that no parent should be judged unfit solely because of homosexuality but noted that Janice DeLong's sexual orientation was not the only reason for the court order that gave her former husband custody of their three children. Macon County Circuit Judge Ronald Belt ruled in 1996 that the best interests of the children would be met by giving sole custody to their father, E. Joseph DeLong III of Jefferson City. Belt cited the father's "greater stability," along with the mother's negativity toward him and her "immaturity in seeking after repeated new love relationships."

The next day, a judge in Essex County, New Jersey ruled in a custody dispute involving two former lesbian partners. The case was one of three pending in the state involving former homosexual lovers. In this one, the judge found that a woman identified only as V-C has no right to joint custody or visitation with her former partner's two children. The judge ruled that New Jersey law gives no standing to third parties in custody cases.

A lawyer for the plaintiff says she will appeal.

Fundry weighs run against lesbian

Republican Ron Greer will decide this week whether to run as a write-in candidate for Congress in Wisconsin's Second District. The Former Madison firefighter finished second to Jo Musser in the GOP primary. Lesbian Tammy Baldwin won the Democratic nomination. Greer is known for his outspoken views against homosexuality. He picked up support from Green Bay Packers defensive end Reggie White in the primary.

Fatal fire may have been anti-gay

A fatal dormitory fire at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky last week has now been officially classified a homicide. Student Michael Minger of Florida lost his life in the blaze and more than a dozen other residents of Hester Hall were hurt. Lab results released today by Kentucky State Police indicate the presence of accelerants from the fourth floor fire scene, confirming suspicions that the fire was caused by arson.

Captain John Vance says investigators have so far been unable to establish a link between anti-gay graffiti found at the dorm with a possible motive.

Wrong school phone number rings gay sex

Officials at the University of Michigan-Flint apologized Wednesday, September 23 for listing the phone number of a gay-sex line on as many as 20,000 "True Blue" recruitment letters mailed to high school students. Instead of the toll-free, 800-number to the campus admissions office, the letters gave an 800-number of a recording offering "hot talk" and "X-rated action." ▼

SM Safe Sex

◀ page 1

ious novice." The brochure is somewhat of a departure for Stop AIDS, a project that focuses on gay and bisexual men, in that it also includes information for women; in fact, the brochure is useful for leatherfolk of all genders and sexual orientations.

Activities discussed include anal, genital, and tit play; fisting; enemas; toys; clips and clamps; whipping; blood sports; "water sports;" and temperature and electricity play. The brochure advises, "If you are unsure of your ability to safely perform an SM activity, then hold off until you get more information and maybe some practice on an inanimate object."

Other topics addressed include HIV and sexually transmitted disease risk reduction, safe words

and SM etiquette ("Always ask before touching someone else's toys, or someone else's bottom, or breaking into someone else's scene"), and the effects of drugs and alcohol. As the pamphlet notes, "Most SM activities are low-risk for passing HIV and other STDs, but there are other safety concerns involved." Finally, the brochure includes a list of SM community resources. ▼

Copies of SM Sex Safely will be available at the Folsom Street Fair at the STOP AIDS, Exiles, 15 Association, and Society of Janus booths, and after the fair at several local leather bars and businesses. Bulk copies can be ordered by calling Stop AIDS at (415) 575-0150. Call (415) 575-0150 x. 235 or e-mail mike@stopaids.org for information about the discussion group.

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Military

◀ page 22

looking for a theory that puts the blame back on gay people rather than trying to address the underlying problems," of DADT, Osburn said.

Osburn said that "what the Pentagon does not have is information underlying what constitutes a statement and how did that statement come to be," and that most "statement" discharges come about as a result of soldiers facing anti-gay harassment in their units. "They find that there is no other way to protect themselves but to confront the harassment."

He used the example of Timothy McVeigh, a soldier who is no relation to the Oklahoma City bomber, whom the Navy tried to discharge when it illegally obtained his online profile containing the word gay. "If Tim

McVeigh had been kicked out," Osburn said, "it would have counted as a statements case."

The Able case, a constitutional challenge to DADT, won at the trial level in federal court. The trial court decision was reversed September 23 by a three-member panel of the Second Circuit in New York. The appeal was argued in the spring. Observers predicted the losing side will appeal.

Moskos believes that the Supreme Court will continue to defer to the military and not strike down DADT as unconstitutional. However, should the courts do so, he does not foresee insurmountable problems in integrating open gays and lesbians into the military. He cited examples of western European and Australian forces that have done so. Problems have arisen, most often over issues such as spousal benefits, but he termed those types of issues "manageable." ▼

Fauci

◀ page 27

tions where they are unable to avoid sex with partners who are HIV-infected or to persuade their partners to use a condom."

HIV vaccine development

"The development of a safe and effective vaccine for HIV infection remains the 'holy grail' of AIDS research, and an important step toward bringing the HIV epidemic under control. To speed the pace of HIV vaccine discovery, many public and private agencies have dramatically increased the resources devoted to HIV vaccine research. For example, at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), HIV vaccine funding increased by nearly 80 percent between FY 1995 and the estimated NIH budget for FY 1999. As part of this expanded effort, NIH has awarded numerous grants to foster innovative research on HIV vaccines, and is invigorating and reorganizing its vaccine clinical trials effort. In addition, NIH has established a Vaccine Research Center within the NIH intramural research program to stimulate multidisciplinary vaccine research. HIV vaccine developers face a number of formidable obstacles, such as the variability of the virus and an incomplete understanding of the specific immune responses that may protect individuals from in-

fection. However, there are many reasons to be optimistic that a safe and effective HIV vaccine can be developed. Perhaps most compelling is the fact that the human immune system can control HIV under certain circumstances. Experimental vaccines have protected animals from an HIV-like virus known as the simian immunodeficiency virus, and candidate HIV vaccines have elicited immune responses and been proven to be safe in early stage trials in humans.

"NIH-funded researchers are now comparing three different vectors, as well as other HIV proteins to determine which combination produces the most robust immune response. These studies, as well as additional data that emerge from basic research, will provide the information to determine which products will advance into larger-scale testing.

"Last year, President Clinton set a national goal of having a useful HIV vaccine within 10 years. We are well-positioned in our attempt to meet this goal with the extraordinary basic and applied research that is now under way. As we work to control the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, it is essential that public and private sector partners redouble their commitment to working together to speed HIV vaccine development, refine prevention efforts, and develop new treatments for those infected with the virus." ▼

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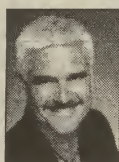
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LEGAL NOTICES

CNS 1642875

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Re- quest for Qualifications #140

The San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from parties interested in planning family assessment for the DHS Family & Children Services Division and DPH Community Mental Health Services. This is a reissue of RFQ #137. This contract will be contingent upon the level and availability of funding.

The contract will provide \$70,000 for a minimum of 2000 hours of consulting services over the period from December 1, 1998 to November 30, 1999. The contract will include an additional planning budget (\$80,000) to cover an administrative assistant and other expenses.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning Wednesday, September 23, 1998. Office hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM. Responses will be due on October 16, 1998 at 1:00PM.

The Resident's Conference will be held at 10 AM on October 8, 1998 at 170 Otis, SF, CA. For further information, call John Tsutakawa at (415) 557-5680.

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Attorney: Servicemembers League Defense Network (SLDN) seeks a Legal Dir. and/or Sen. Staff Atty. LD should have 6+ years exp.; SSA 3+ years. Military law, civ. rts. law, leg. aid serv. and/or prior mil serv. is ideal but not req. Cand. must have a J.D. from an accredited law sch. & be adm. to the Bar. 43-50 for LD; 36-42 for SSA. Both DOE+ben. EOE. Send resume and cover ltr. to SLDN, P.O. Box 65301, Washington, D.C. 20035-5301. <http://www.sldn.org>.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES JUNE 26, 1998

To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Bistecca SF INC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 244 Jackson St. San Francisco, CA 94111. For the following type of License: 47 ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE. SEPTEMBER 10, 17, 24,

STATEMENT FILE NO. 225458

The following person(s) are doing business as Every Day's A Holiday 1835 Divisadero San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an general partnership-

signed Byron Bentley. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 9/8/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 9/8/98. SEPT 17, 24, OCT 1, 8, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 225413

The following person(s) are doing business as San Francisco Dyke Mommy 1520 Alice St. #204 Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jean Aschremer. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 9/8/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 9/8/98. SEPT 17, 24, OCT 1, 8, 1998

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Display: Sept 25th @ 3:00

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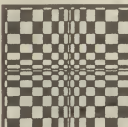
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The pleasures of Philharmonia
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Frank Ferko's 'Hildegard
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End of the line
SF Opera's 'A Streetcar
Named Desire' opens.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 39 • 24 September 1998



Looking for John Waters' Pecker

by Mark J. Huisman

I once saw Divine walk out of a hardware store with a TV in one hand and a chain saw in the other," says John Waters. "He was so weird-lookin' to people back then that they were just plain scared to make eye contact. So he'd just walk on down the street or climb into the car and drive off."

"He was better at shoplifting than I was. But he got caught. I never got caught in my life," says the 52-year-old film legend, laughing at past antics. "I even did something that's in *Pecker*. I went into a store, put on all the clothing I could, went up to the counter and filled out a job application — fake name, address, phone number, the works — and walked out with all the stuff."

Suddenly, with a roll of his bright, wide eyes, Waters draws the line. "I'm only going to give up the stuff on which the statute of limitations has expired. If you think you're going to get the murder rap out of me, you're crazy."

It's a little surreal, sitting with Waters in his neatly appointed West Village apartment, the pied-à-terre to

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Mill Valley Film Festival's Queer edge

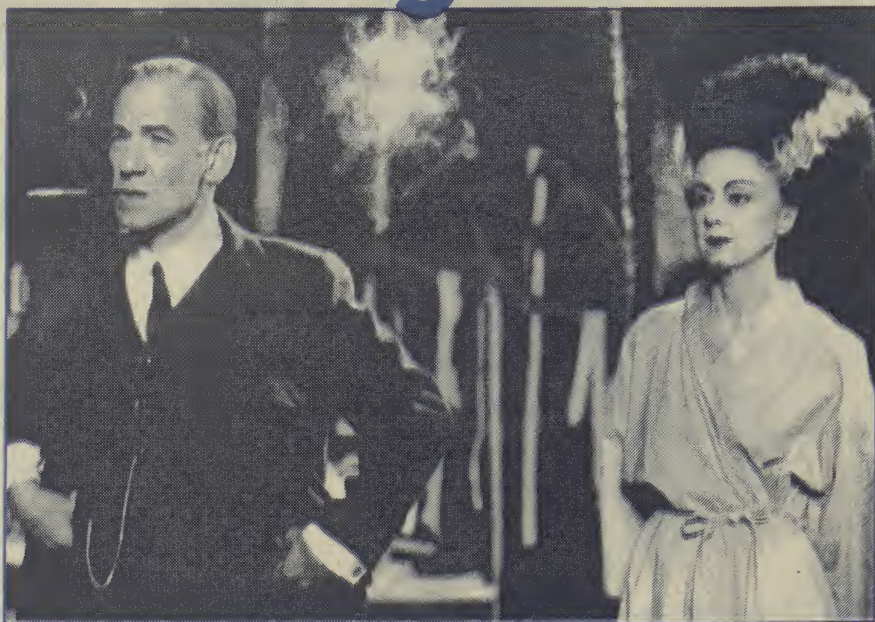
by Robert Julian

It's only fitting that Marin County, the legendary domain of hot tubs and peacock feathers, should produce the most eclectic film festival in California. The Mill Valley Film Festival (Oct. 1-11) offers seminars, ice cream socials, children's programs, star tributes, and an outdoor screening of *It Came From Beneath the Sea* on Mount Tam (Sept. 26), complete with dinner service. Among the hundreds of films being screened, there are several offerings of special interest to gay/lesbian film fans.

Two of the most anticipated queer features of 1998 make their debut at Mill Valley: *Love is the Devil*, starring Sir Derek Jacobi as the painter Francis Bacon (Oct. 5), and *Gods and Monsters*, starring Sir Ian McKellen as director James Whale (Oct. 6 and 10). These biopics illuminate the lives of two openly homosexual artists who lived in a time when their sexual orientation was viewed by the general public as a curse — at best. *Love is the Devil* is truly an art film in every possible sense. Its subtitle, "study for a portrait of Francis Bacon," reflects the highly impressionistic cinematic style of writer/director John Maybury. Maybury sets the film in 1971, when Bacon's seven-year affair with George Dyer, a petty crook, is degenerating. The film evokes Bacon's paintings within a cinematic frame, while exploring the painter's masochistic sex life and emotionally turbulent world. Although the film can be slow-going at times, it boasts a flash flood of incredible images, plus the presence of indie queen Tilda Swinton. Sir Derek himself will be in attendance at the screening for a tribute to his life and work.

Gods and Monsters is the more accessible of the two biopics. James Whale direct

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Ian McKellen and Rosalind Ayres in *Gods and Monsters*.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman and the Baltimorons

Last week we were all obsequious mea culpas and sniveling retractions. Enough of that. Frankly, we don't have the stomach for groveling. So this week, prepare yourself for assorted and sundry items for which we have no apologies and no regrets.



Rita Moreno

We're certainly not sorry to say we were at Opening Night of Cine Latino at the Castro Theatre last week, for the special tribute to superstar **Rita Moreno** and the screening of the classic film *West Side Story*. We just love the opening scenes of that movie, where the Jets and the Sharks are singing and struttin' their stuff through the barrio. It's sooo cute when ballet dancers play tough. As Moreno reminisced, choreographer **Jerome Robbins**, the meanest show biz daddy of them all, warned his dancers that if he saw one queen leap out of them, their butts were fired. Boy, boy, crazy boy — stay butch, boy!

Radiating cool charisma and sheer star quality, Moreno raised the bar for all future celebrity interviews on the stage of the Castro Theatre. Seated in a "throne" across from two fawning journalists who shall remain boldface nameless, she warned them in no

uncertain terms: "No shitty questions!" At last, a celebrity icon with standards she won't apologize for.

The very next evening in the Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason, we were feeling no remorse. Macy's '98 Passport, "An Evening of Passion + Compassion," was the star-studded extravaganza we've come to expect from the annual AIDS benefit event/fashion show/bacchanalia. During the pre-show booze 'n' shmooze, we were shamelessly taken with a formidable drag queen wearing the quintessential cocktail dress: it

spread out to encompass an entire buffet table stocked with little nibbly things. We won't soon forget the sight of scene photographer **Rick Gerhart** chasing after her, desperately trying to snag a few of her h'ors d'oeuvres.

If the cocktail party were not spectacle enough, the fashion show proper was designed to dazzle 'em. We were still thrilling to appearances by Event Chair **Earvin 'Magic' Johnson** and singer **k.d. lang** (who introduced herself as "the official lipstick lesbian" of the affair) when the heavens parted and Founding Chair **Elizabeth Taylor** wafted on stage to thunderous applause. Taylor was strong and outspoken in her brief remarks, reminding us that stopping new AIDS infections means "acknowledging those who live on the edge of society, giving them condoms and clean needles." The Last Hollywood Star also demanded effective treatments for all, not just for



Queen in a cocktail dress at Macy's '98 Passport

the few who can afford them. Challenging any sense of complacency in the ongoing battle against the deadly virus, La Liz sounded the battle cry, "Now is the time for guts and guile!"

Actually, just then it was the time for butts and drool, because squadrons of "hard bodies" were parading themselves up and down the runway for our fashion edification and lust objectification. In

a fantasy of heavy industry, models in Levi's "Hard Jeans" schlepped chain saws and other butch equipment around, the women accessorized with metal riveted halters, the men with humongous bare chests and well-polished motorcycle boots. During the crowd-pleasing "Under Current" segment, these same models strutted their booties in

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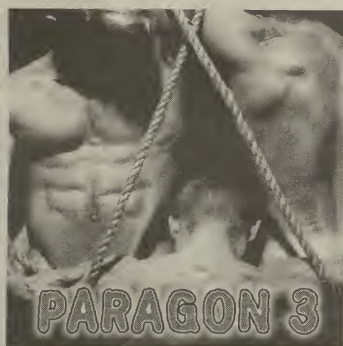
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'Hydriotaphia' at Berkeley Rep

Browne study

by Richard Dodds

h, youth. It's the time to try things, to take chances, to indulge yourself before those caution signs that come with maturity have been erected. *Hydriotaphia* is a risky young work by Tony Kushner, displaying evidence of the precocious talents that would blossom in *Angels in America*, but one that also comes with the requisite stumbles.

Hydriotaphia was Kushner's second play, and after a brief run at a tiny theater in 1987, the playwright stashed it away, even deleting it until recently from his official biography. Now he has not only let it out of the trunk, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright has taken an active role in its production at Berkeley Rep. But Kushner, no longer a tyro, still seems to be indulging himself.

It's cheeky to ask an audience to sit for three and a half hours under any circumstances, and even more so in an effort to relaunch a play that was at least partly a learning exercise. Of course, Kushner pulled off the three-and-a-half-hour feat not once but twice with the two parts of *Angels in America*, but there we got to travel to Antarctica, Salt Lake City, and Central Park, in addition to various bedrooms, dressing rooms and boardrooms. In *Hydriotaphia*, we never leave the bedroom of Sir Thomas Browne, and he hardly leaves his bed. There was also a moral fury fueling *Angels* that is missing in *Hydriotaphia*, a play that loses energy whenever it gets on an intellectual soapbox.

Though structure and momentum falter after the first of its two intermissions, a condition not aided by several lackluster supporting performances, the first scenes do possess a promising off-kilter vitality. Here we meet Dr. Browne on the verge of death, as his wife, doctor, pastor, and servants fuss over him with different motives. But although Browne is

Jonathan Hadary and Anika Noni Rose in Berkeley Rep's *Hydriotaphia*

based on an actual and highly esteemed author of the 17th century, and the thick realism of the set suggests a historical drama, we're quickly cued otherwise.

Projected titles above the stage set the scene: "Norfolk, England (sort of), April 3, 1667 (more or less)." As the lights come up, a couple of rustic servants are humping comically at the foot of Dr. Browne's deathbed, and shortly thereafter an easily distracted Death and Browne's pixieish soul make their appearances. It's an unexpectedly nutty world Kushner creates, but one he only intermittently sustains amid confused and labored tangents that unfortunately seem to carry the meat of his messages about death.

The production is at its most enjoyable when Kushner focuses on the burlesque of the Browne household, moments that are enhanced by the inspired lunacy of several key cast members. J.R. Horne is a flesh-and-blood cartoon with his Porky Pig take on the stuttering pastor, Charles Dean epitomizes the teutonic fop as Browne's physician, Sharon Lockwood creates a nun from

hell, and Sloane Shelton plays the cook with a goofy sweetness that colors her lines with natural comic charm.

Jonathan Hadary plays Dr. Browne, a demanding part, with passion and skill, but there are problems in other roles that can sometimes undermine the production. The play is not strong enough to carry them along, nor they the play. Ethan McSweeney is credited as director, although Kushner had a hand in it, as did Michael Wilson, who directed the original version of this production at the Alley Theatre in Houston.

Hydriotaphia is the kind of play that would be a happy discovery by scholars of an esteemed playwright after he is gone. But now is probably too soon. At this point, we're still more eager to see where Kushner is headed than where he started. ▼

Hydriotaphia, or the Death of Dr. Browne will run at Berkeley Rep through Nov. 1. Tickets are \$29.50-\$45. Call (510) 845-4700.

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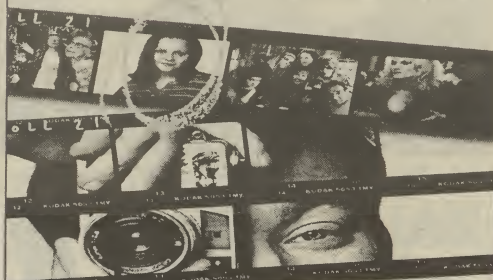
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'Chicago' hope
Mark Spencer joins the cast

by John F. Karr

How does a nice boy get himself into such things?

In Mark Spencer's case, it was his unique vocal ability that landed him a role in *Chicago*. Mark comes from a Florida family that he says "are strict Catholics." He has an aunt who's a nun, and an uncle who's a priest. Mark was a professional harp player with the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra and the New World Symphony, whose conductor is Michael Tilson Thomas. ("But I only played one performance under him," Mark sighs.) Before joining the cast of *Chicago*, he was Director of Music for the Archdiocese of Chicago — the city, not the show. He has also sung in a handful of opera performances, and it was his opera training that tore him from the church and threw him into a show as cynically profane as *Chicago*.

A friend of Mark's in New York knew that the casting director of *Chicago* was searching for an opera-styled voice that would stand out as a specialty from the Broadway belting typical of the rest of the cast of the show. When told about Mark's ability, the casting director contacted him, and when Mark couldn't leave his job to audition in New York, the *Chicago* team flew to Chicago —

and offered him the job as soon as they heard him.

"It was all very sudden," Mark told me when we talked by phone during the show's last stop before San Francisco, Salt Lake City. "And to tell the truth, I wasn't sure I wanted to leave my job, or could. But when I told my boss about it, it was like a scene from *The Sound of Music*! The Father urged me to follow my opportunity, and gave me his blessing. Besides, he pointed out, the Church will still be there when *Chicago* closes."

Mark is fairly giddy about being in the show. When I asked about his making the shift from classical and operatic music to showtunes, he squealed, "Oh, it's a blast!" Similarly, of the jump from the world of religion to the realm of the theatre, he said, "Playing comedy is a hoot!"

Elements of the church are not all that different from show biz, he pointed out. "A lot of the ceremonial aspects of religion, like Holy Week, and Easter, communion, you could classify as theatre," he said, "because there's rehearsal, and the services are played out like performances."

Religion and, indeed, all things packaged as show biz is the theme at the very heart of *Chicago*, which points out the razzle dazzle underlying most endeavors of contemporary life. It's a theme which has resulted in varying re-



Mark Spencer

actions. When the show premiered in 1975, its jaundiced look at American life put it at distinct odds to the season's big hit, the inspiring *A Chorus Line*. It's no surprise the show is a hit in today's more cynical climate. Mark reported how the show's courtroom scene, a huge joke at the legal system's expense, was especially appreciated in Washington, D.C.

But the show's effect is completely the opposite in the Mormon-saturated Salt Lake City. "People sit there in shocked silence," Mark told me. "It's as if they've seen a car accident — you know, the horror, the hand to the mouth. In fact, we're X-rated in Salt Lake! I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen the ticket, but they won't let anyone under 17 in to see *Chicago* in Salt Lake!"

This makes playing the show in San Francisco a delicious prospect to Mark Spencer. ▼

'Titus!' at Yerba Buena Gardens
Circus maximus

by Richard Dodds



Writer-director John Fisher

You want small, subtle, and intimate? There's always the circus at the Cow Palace. Compared to what writer-director John Fisher has wrought with *Titus!* at the Yerba Buena Gardens, the Greatest Show on Earth can seem like small potatoes. At *Titus!*, the ushers have to use bullhorns.

Fisher, you will recall, scored a big hit with *Medea, the Musical*, which camped its way through Greek tragedy. This time out, it's Shakespeare's take on Roman tragedy that's getting the treatment, and it may seem that all the

world's a stage by the time you've been taken through it. Fisher's freewheeling version of *Titus Andronicus* uses much of the five-acre urban oasis for its swaggering silliness, as the cast scurries from place to place and the audience is shepherded to each new locale.

Though the body of the dialogue is now by Fisher, the bodies are by Shakespeare. To a surprising degree, given the circumstances, the story of *Titus Andronicus* gets told. And a bloody story it is. Shakespeare's audiences loved the mayhem, and judging by the meriment this past weekend that greeted each slashed throat (accompanied by geysers of stage blood), audiences haven't changed all that much in 400 years.

The story is a convoluted tale of power plays in Ancient Rome that lacks any clear-cut heroes, but

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THEATRE

Side by side on the road

'Chicago' pair Michael Gill, Jack Gaughan

by Richard Dodds

Living together can be hard enough. Couples, the conventional wisdom says, are better off not working together too. And for Michael Gill and Jack Gaughan, you can add traveling together for their work. Their work is the musical *Chicago*, but as their first anniversary on the road approaches, they are ready to sign up for more.

Gaughan is the music director and Gill the company manager for the San Francisco-bound touring production spawned by the hit Broadway revival, and their respective jobs actually provide a distance that has brought some regularly scheduled romance to their relationship.

As company manager, Gill, 41, works through the day in a backstage office dealing with the production's clerical, financial, and personnel matters. As music director, Gaughan, 48, works at night in the pit conducting the 13-piece orchestra.

"We have a tradition," Gill said. "Because Jack is on the podium every night, it doesn't give us the chance to do what is considered normal evening activities. So on our travel day, which is usually a Monday, after we've arrived in the new city, we try to find what is considered the nicest restaurant in that town and get dressed up and go out for a very nice, private dinner. It's something we really look forward to."

Most members of the *Chicago* company know that Gill and Gaughan are a couple, though you won't find them snuggling at work. "We're very private sorts of people," Gaughan said, "and we don't go around giving public displays of affection."

"And because Jack and I are both in sort of managerial positions, we're extremely careful," Gill added. "People will see us talking in the theater, and that's about it."

But when the press agent for the show came to Gill, as company manager, looking for interview possibilities for the gay press in San Francisco, Gill thought about himself and his partner. "I said, 'I think Jack and I would be interested, but only if we could do it as a couple,'" Gill said. "Neither one of us is particularly fond of interviews, but we thought it would be fun to do together."

When asked if there was a downside in their business to being openly gay, Gill and Gaughan answered in unison: "No."

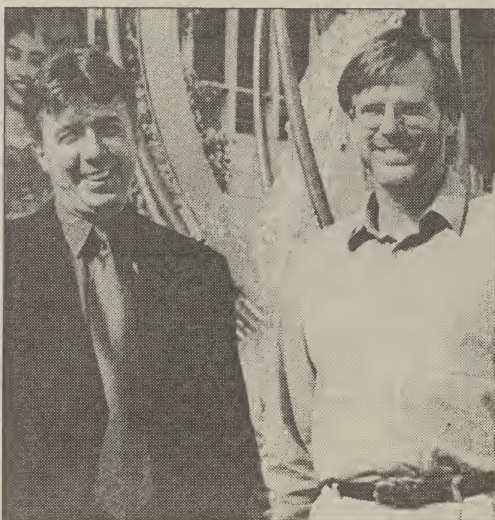
"We are blessed," Gill continued, "that in the theater industry, it truly doesn't matter what your sexual preference is."

'Phantom' connection

Chicago is not the first show Gill and Gaughan have worked on together. They met on the Broadway production of *Phantom of the Opera*, though both were with different partners at the time. "Jack and I struck up a friendship," Gill said, "and as those other relationships ended, our friendship grew into something else."

Gaughan left *Phantom* first, for projects that included the world premiere of Jimmy Buffet's musical based on the novel *Don't Stop the Carnival*, and coaching Antonio Banderas for the film version

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Chicago's company manager Michael Gill and musical director Jack Gaughan

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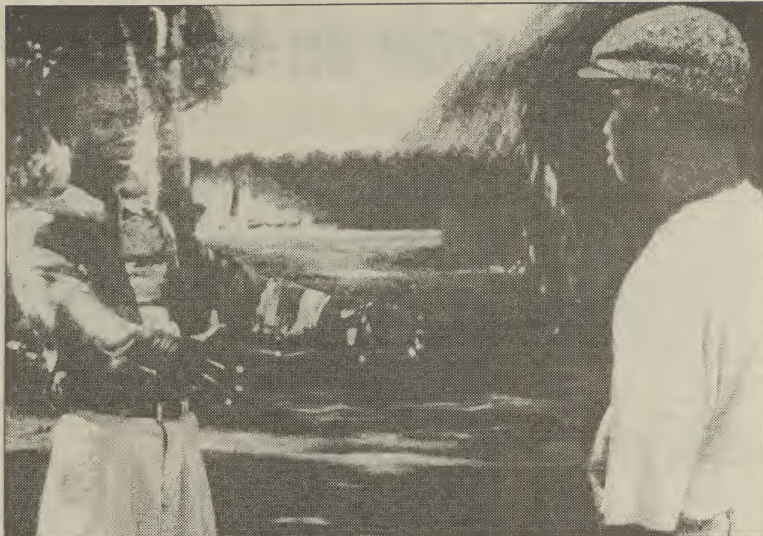
Mill Valley films

◀ Arts cover

ed *Frankenstein* and *The Bride of Frankenstein*, and the film shows him in 1957 Hollywood, near the end of his life. Whale develops a crush on a hunky lawn dog played by Brendan Fraser, and the outcome is strictly *Death in Venice* meets *Sunset Boulevard* — complete with the corpse of Whale floating in his own swimming pool. Lynn Redgrave eats up the scenery as Whale's devoted servant, but Fraser is the eye-candy. Bill Condon is responsible for the writing and directing here. It's interesting to note that both these features rehash the "tragic old queen" stereotype — personal or professional misery,

with ambitions thwarted by homosexuality. Hopefully, someone will rewrite this scenario by filming the story of William Haines, the 1920s Hollywood matinee idol who met the man of his dreams, dumped the studio system, became a famous interior decorator, and lived happily ever after with his lover for the next 50 years. Rumor has it this story may actually reach the screen next year.

Dakan (Oct. 6), written and directed by Mohammed Camara, is the first-ever gay feature film from West Africa. Two young schoolboys declare their love for each other, and the rest of their world goes into reaction. *Dakan* plays with San Francisco filmmaker Brad Robinson's short *Your Kiss*, a whimsical roundelay of



The two young lovers in *Dakan*, featured in the 21st Mill Valley Film Festival.



Derek Jacobi as Francis Bacon in *Love Is The Devil*

man-to-man face-sucking on a San Francisco rooftop. On a more somber note, *Long Live Life* (Oct. 3), an Indian film about AIDS by Smitra Bhav and Sunil Sukthankar, has its world premiere.

The goof factor gets a boost from Jane Cotti's farcical *Sororicide* (Oct. 4), a send-up of lesbian love affairs and soap opera addictions. Cotti inserts herself into footage lifted from real television soap operas, as she plays out all the roles she always wanted to play in her own lesbian romances. When you see Cotti wax lyrical about her little lesbian hideaway in Bernal Heights, you'll laugh out loud. On the same program of

shorts dedicated to lesbian life, you'll find Jennie Olson's *Blue Diary*, Laurie Schmidt's *Sleep Come Free Me*, and Wendy Popadynetz's *People Like Us*.

Although not specifically queer (and not available for preview by press time), one of the most promising films of the festival is *Little Voice* (Oct. 9). Jane Horrocks (the ditsy secretary from *AbFab*) stars as a pathologically shy English girl who happens to have a talent for belting out songs and celebrity impersonations of her favorite film stars, like Judy Garland and Marilyn Monroe. With Brenda Blethyn (*Secrets and Lies*), Michael Caine, and Ewan McGre-

gor as supporting cast, how could you possibly lose? ▼

Mill Valley Film Festival screenings occur at the Sequoia and Lark Theaters in Mill Valley, with some additional off-site venues. Call the Film Festival Information Line at (415) 383-5346 for updated ticket and sell-out information. Tickets may be purchased at all BASS locations, at the Box Office trailer located at the corner of Blithedale and Throckmorton in Mill Valley, or via the festival website at www.finc.org/mvff.

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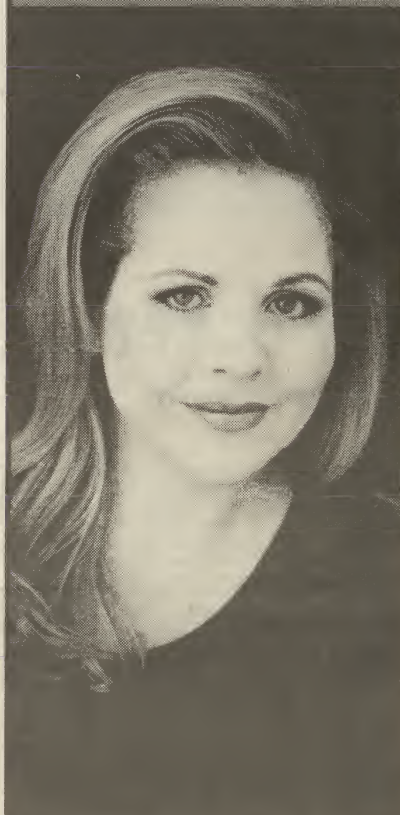
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Christina Ricci and Edward Furlong in John Waters' *Pecker*

The perils of 'Pecker'

John Waters takes on the art world

by Chris Culwell

For close to three decades, John Waters has enjoyed amazing success parading a warped but sometimes alarmingly precise view of humanity across the Silver Screen. His trashy spectacles so deftly mingle the grotesque and the comic that it's hard to imagine this uniquely American director taking a false step down the road of bad taste, his preferred byway. But with his latest film, *Pecker*, Waters stumbles. Die-hard fans will no doubt appreciate the film for all the reasons one normally enjoys a Waters film — screwball antics, campy dialogue, fashion calamities — but even zealous devotees won't fail to notice that *Pecker* strains for significance. And though it's customary for Waters' fans to intensify their experience of his deliberately off-color films by branding them with negative labels, it's likely that people won't be joking when they call *Pecker* pretentious.

Pecker is about Pecker, a goofy Baltimore teenager who works in

a sandwich shop but dreams of becoming a professional photographer. When he's not flipping burgers, Pecker, so named by his parents because he "pecked" at his food as a child, busies himself snapping pics of all the colorful denizens of "Charm City, U.S.A." He also compulsively photographs his best friend Matt, an adept shoplifter; his girlfriend Shelley, who toils in a laundromat; and various members of his family, which is composed of the usual freaks one encounters in a Waters film: ditzzy parents, a queer-friendly older sister, a sugar-addicted younger sister, and Pecker's grandmother, a Leni Riefenstahl lookalike who performs acts of pseudo-ventriloquism with a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary.

The story gets going when Rorey Wheeler, a brainy New York art dealer who has fallen under the spell of Pecker's pictures, decides to give him a solo show in her gallery, turning him into an overnight art star complete with magazine cover stories, groupies, and a flush bank account. But instant fame has its price. When

New York's art literati begins churning out verbiage about Pecker's pictures, his life takes a turn for the worse. Suddenly Matt can no longer shoplift because everyone knows he's a juvenile delinquent; Shelley becomes irate when press whores dub her a "stain goddess" and misread her playful poses for Pecker as libidinous come-ons; Pecker's grandmother is vilified by local Catholics when her bizarre ritual with the ligneous virgin is revealed in a national art journal; and Pecker himself is stymied when an art critic labels his family "culturally challenged."

Turning the tables

Threatened with the loss of family, friends, and his own self-respect, Pecker turns his back on the art world, but not before turning the tables on the people who have made his life a living hell. For his next show, which he hosts in a Baltimore gay bar instead of the Whitney Museum, where he's been offered another solo exhibition, Pecker shows portraits of New York's Art Mafia, whose vart-

page 50 ►

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INTERVIEW

John Waters

◀ Arts cover

his Baltimore digs and a definite step up from the trailer of one Babs Johnson. Famed for his early outrageousness and the fiercely irreverent streak which remains in his work today despite constant talk he's swimming in the mainstream, Waters looks the picture of normalcy. His iconic face, with its high brow and swept back ebony hair, is framed by almost bookish black eyeglass frames. He wears a neat black suit, white shirt and black tie with a thick silver stripe cascading from the knot. On his feet are black sneakers, their white laces knotted and reknotted. The furnishings have plush upholstery and are stacked with pillows; the walls are lined with novels and huge tomes about art and sculpture. Filthy though his films may be, his home harbors nary a speck of dust. As he recalls decades gone by with obvious fondness, Waters has no desire whatsoever to experience them again.

"I function a lot better when I can park my car legally next to the camera truck and there is actually food you can eat. And after I yell 'Cut!', I don't want to have to scream at the actors, 'Run! Run!' I don't want to have to flee the police. I paid my dues. I did that."

Not only did Waters flee the police, but he was also arrested countless times on obscenity

charges for screening his work publicly. "Every time we went before a jury, we thought it would help that the Museum of Modern Art bought one of the original *Pink Flamingos* prints. And every time we'd get convicted. It was like, 'Oh, it's art. It's bad.'"

Title tussle

Twenty-five years later, Waters tussled with the Motion Picture Association of America, which rates all films released by the studios, over his new film's title. "They flagged it because of the word, though they didn't know what the film was about. I had to fly to L.A. and go to a hearing with a lawyer. We'd made this two-page list of titles—*Octopussy*, *In & Out*, and the best one, *Free Willy*. They listen to your argument and then you have to go outside and wait — just like a court. And when I went back in they were all looking at the floor, and I thought, 'Oh, no, I'm going to get convicted again.' But it turned out OK for my *Pecker*."

Despite that experience, much has changed in those twenty-five years. All the companies that once made independent films are now owned by Hollywood studios, including *Pecker's* distributor, Fine Line Films, a division of New Line Cinema (the original distributor of *Female Trouble* and *Pink Flamingos*), which is part of Time Warner. Queen Divine is gone, having died suddenly in 1989. But fecal matter, which he once so infamously digested, lives on in the

form of *South Park's* Mr. Hanky, who even gets his own dialogue and close-ups. A thoroughly sanitized New York City has outlawed sex shops. John Waters disdains contemporary club life.

"I'm so happy I'm not twenty any more. If I wanted to stay out all night, where would I go?" he asks with disappointment. "I have to go to my memory. The places I went, the outrageous experiences I had — sipping a cocktail while your best friend got naked in the corner, seeing Angela Lansbury at Hellfire — that's over."

"I never see anybody famous at Blow Buddies or the 82 Club," he says with mock outrage about the famous San Francisco and East Village sex establishments. "Next it'll be prohibition." Waters guffaws again, offering his very own campaign platform: "A Blow Buddies in every neighborhood! Just like Starbucks." He raises his trademark eyebrows: "Baltimore has more edge than New York."

Even if there isn't a sex or coffee shop in your neighborhood, there's a theater showing Waters' *Pecker*. [See review, previous page.] The film is a departure of sorts for the madcap director, but preserves the humor fans expect. Like most of his films — from the trashy Linkleters or renegade Johnsons to the socially conscious *Turnblatts* — *Pecker* is about family, with one crucial difference.

"This is by far the most functional, normal family I've ever made a film about," says Waters.



Divine

stock and processed it secretly.

"Then, for my next few films, *Multiple Maniacs* and *Pink Flamingos*, I stole money from my parents."

Fans in New York are in for a treat with Waters' next museum retrospective (he's previously been feted by museums in Baltimore and Los Angeles) at New York's Museum of the Moving Image, which starts on October 17 and is an honor previously afforded to the likes of Martin Scorsese and Jean-Luc Godard. MOMI will show virtually all of Waters' films and recent treats like his guest spot from *The Simpsons*. How does Waters feel about dusting off the museum piece slipcovers? "I'm old," he quips. "But I'm still impressed."

"They're peculiar, but they're very lovely, very caring. *Pecker's* mother genuinely doesn't believe that homeless people should not look as good as the rest of us. For her, it's about self-esteem. Why shouldn't a bag lady own a flowered plastic rain poncho, if she wants one? And she sells to them for half-price." When a visitor asks if they could be called white trash, Waters hawks.

"The family in this movie is not white trash," he insists, shaking his head back and forth as the volume of his voice climbs. "And I have certainly made films about those people, but I wouldn't call them that. White trash is the last acceptable racist phrase. It's like saying nigger without saying it. I'm shocked that people use both but don't think they're racist."

Brownie points

Waters credits his own parents with teaching him "to worship good taste."

He is also quick to note his family's pivotal role in his career. "My first camera was a little Brownie that my grandmother gave me," he recalls with a smile, his sparkling eyes momentarily staring into the past. "I didn't even know you were supposed to edit the film. I thought you just showed what came out of the camera."

He's traveled a long road since directing and starring in his first short, "Hag in a Black Leather Jacket," made with the assistance of a friend who worked in a camera store and stole all the film

And still working. Waters is looking forward to his next production, *Cecil B. Demented*, which was scheduled to be shot before *Pecker*, but fell through due to casting problems. He hopes the flick about a gang of teens who terrorize the film industry — "I certainly know all about that" — will go into production next spring.

And he deftly throws a bone to all viewers eager to see Steve Yeager's much-anticipated, oft-delayed Waters/Divine early-days documentary *Divine Trash*. "I don't think you'll have to wait much longer," Waters says through a teasing grin. "They've had some distribution problems, but those are being ironed out."

Two viewers with a leg up on the rest of us include Waters' mother and Divine's mother, who attended the Baltimore world premiere screening of *Divine Trash* together. Neither had ever seen any footage from the films their sons made together. "I saw them squirming," Waters recalls. "No mother can be happy about those films."

Waters gave the folks a piece of advice that's still appropriate for new viewers today. "Don't even try to figure out why we made that film. Don't even think about it. Just move on. I even told Divine's mother, 'If it makes you feel any better, I thought it up, he didn't.'" Her response gave Waters a chuckle. "She said, 'I just decided some of it was so awful I had to laugh.' Now that's maternal maturity." ▼

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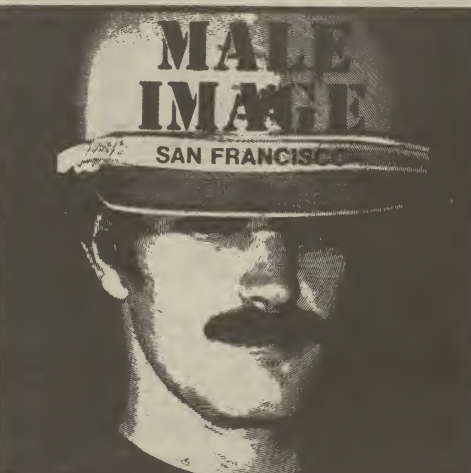
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Musical pageantry

by Tim Pfaff

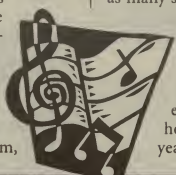
The only gowns were on the sopranos, the only pageantry in the music and libretto as Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra unostentatiously dispatched the most musically satisfying of the season-opening rites of autumn. It's hardly news that the Bay Area's premiere period-instrument orchestra typically does its best work of the year in the Handel oratorio with which it begins — its music director, Nicholas McGegan, is a born Handelian, and Philharmonia, thanks to him, a bred Handel band.

But even by the organization's own lofty standards, *Solomon* was a stunner.

Nearly three and a half hours of a virtually plotless paean to the Old Testament's King Solomon virtually flew by in what turned out to an hymn to the unalloyed genius of the composer in a work of his late, still-questing maturity. What if McGegan's success, like Michael Tilson Thomas' with an all-Gershwin Symphony opener, reminded local musical organizations to celebrate composers instead of stars? Could that be so bad? It's interesting, in any case, that the year that formula worked, the tune-spinners in question were Handel and Gershwin, two masters of melody and men of the

theater who surely would have understood each other — as they did, uniquely, their still-faithful audiences.

The not-so-quiet aspects of this *Solomon* were the piece's great choruses, knocked off on this occasion by Philharmonia's own ace Philharmonia Chorale in combination with the Choir of Gonville and Caius College of England's Cambridge University. A quarter as many singers sent even as sacred a local musical cow as the San Francisco Symphony Chorus out to pasture with some of the most elevating choral singing heard in these parts in years. "Sweep, sweep the string," the long, multi-part cho-



Notes From All Over

rus in the oratorio's third act, yielded one jaw-dropping paradigm of choral art after another, leaving members of the Berkeley audience pounding their thighs like the car-bound witnesses of the turning of the leaves on the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Favorite children

The pleasures of watching Philharmonia grow up in this repertoire over the past 18 years was compounded here by watching two of its favorite vocal children (both of special interest to readers of the *B.A.R.*) truly arrive. Christine Brandes, who has proved herself incapable of being boring in any repertoire, glittered

and was gay as Solomon's unnamed Queen and, even more touchingly, as the Harlot true mother of the child Solomon proved his crafty wisdom in sav-



Countertenor Daniel Taylor

ing. And as Solomon, Daniel Taylor left no doubt that he's a contender in the countertenor sweepstakes, a musical sideshow so bizarre and exotic it could only be happening in the dying days of the millennium.

Lacking much else to celebrate on a truly played-out vocal scene, classical music's publicity machine has turned its attention to the day's leading falsettists — and anointed David Daniels, who will sing an eagerly awaited recital for Cal Performances October 25, Lord Emperor of the Universe, Countertenor Division. Since Daniels is as good as "they" say — and an out member of the tribe — one appropriate response is to



Vijay Iyer

cheer. But if Taylor, whose instrument and stage presence are at least as lovely as Daniels', grabs for the top rung on his art — letting the words do the walking through the yellowed pages of early music — he could share the hard-won summit with his toast-of-the-press colleague. There's room for two on that tiny spot of Earth.

Seasons are planned so far in advance that it could only have been fate that brought us *Solomon* the day after the publication of the Starr Report. Even in Handel's day, these Biblical oratorios had hidden messages for monarchs that audiences would have picked up. The Berkeley audience could hardly overlook the words of Handel's anonymous librettist: "Thrice bless'd that wise discerning king, / Who can each passion tame, / And mount on virtue's eagle wing / To everlasting fame" — and the "moral" of the jaunty final chorus: "The name of the wicked shall quickly be past, / But the fame of the just shall eternally last." Better than CNN, and way easier listening.

Rhythms and ragas

One of the most interesting musicians on the Bay Area jazz scene, Berkeley's Vijay Iyer, has just announced he's moving to New York in January. While a move to the Big Apple for a shot at the Big Time, jazz-wise, is as understandable as it is inevitable, Iyer's singular voice will be missed. The thoroughly American keyboardist has tapped his Indian roots to season his music with the rhythms and ragas of his South Indian heritage. The results have usually been arresting, as in his set with guest saxophonist Rudresh

Mahanthappa and Iyer's own ace trio at Yoshi's last summer. That session smoked in a way Iyer's latest, at the 111 Minna Street Gallery on September 4, never even approached.

Gratefully, even that disappointment was the product of Iyer's commendable willingness to take risks — on this occasion, a premature improvisational outing with some friends exploring the jazz potential of two of the most expressive Indian instruments, the tabla and the sarangi. It was a noble experiment, doomed as much as anything by a drunk museum audience determined to drown out the music — and ultimately successful.

Between now and his next local gig, anyone interested in Iyer's work at its most representative can check out his two CDs, *Memoophilia* and the recently released, highly praised *Architectures*. Both are available at Amoeba Records and through Iyer's website — vijay@cnmat.berkeley.edu — the only reliable way to track this fascinating, protean musician.

Piano-jazz fans will also want to know about the recent release of the first biography of one of the century's great musicians, Bill Evans: *How My Heart Sings*, by Peter Pettinger. The book has just hit the stores, so more on it later, but the good news is that it's written by a pianist whose interest is at least as much on Evans the musician as Evans the haunted heroin addict. It includes a discography that, while probably not complete, is the best yet published, and it's sure to be the financial undoing of Evans addicts everywhere. To use language addicts understand: More later. ▼

Titus!

◀ page 40

does have plenty of malefactors. The title character, for example, is a celebrated general who kills his own son in the first act, and then in the last act serves up the flesh of his enemies to their mother at a banquet. And he's one of the nicer characters.

In this production, the director is like an army general coordinating the movements of his troops. Fisher, with clipboard and clenched jaw, is very much in sight, maintaining impressive control over a roaming cast and audience. Fisher's script isn't quite as disciplined, but whenever things begin to lag in the two-and-a-half-hour production, Fisher throws in a new surprise in his mix of the cornball, the clever, and the outrageous. Golf cart-chariot races, water-balloon battles, and a parody of *A Chorus Line* are just a hint of what makes up this choreographed mess of ideas.

The cast is huge, but so is its

stage, and several performers manage to project strong personalities across the great outdoors. As Titus, Christopher Herold has a crazed authority that is endearing, scary and fun. Corey Schaffer is a hoot as Tamora, playing the evil empress in something of a Faye Dunaway-Maria Callas mode. Derek Jackson lends a sinuous, sinister charm to Tamora's paramour Aaron, and Laura Lebleu lets Lavinia, Titus' mutilated daughter, have a touch of pathos before going for the laughs.

Titus! is part of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' SummerStages program of free outdoor performances. Of course, in San Francisco, "summer" can be a misnomer. There is no predicting what the weather will be this weekend, but those who looked the happiest on the first weekend had the warmest clothes. Be prepared. ▼

Titus! will have its final performances at 8 p.m. Sept. 26 and 27 in the Yerba Buena Gardens. Admission is free.



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MUSIC

Organ Beat

The heart is a lonely organ

by Erin Blackwell

Organ fanciers arriving at St. Mary's last Sunday for the West Coast premiere of Frank Ferko's *Hildegard Organ Cycle* walked right into a multiple baptism. Inside the main doors, interested parties clutching small children were leaning over the circular railing, looking down at the sunken baptismal font, where a white-haired priest directed spiritual traffic. The smell of incense hung in the air.

Christoph Tietze, Music Director at St. Mary's, stood behind a table with a small wicker basket stuffed with greenbacks. He suggested sitting on the opposite side of the church from the organ, for the best sound, and apologized the program notes hadn't arrived yet. In fact, the notes were sitting on a pew not far from the composer, who had gone directly to the organ console to get his stops in order.

Baptism over, the newly blessed and their loved ones deserted the hall. Tietze, in shirt sleeves, announced Ferko, who made an entrance in tuxedo and white tie. Fifty of us, sprinkled throughout the wooden benches designed to hold 2,500, did our best to applaud loudly. Ferko opened his score, positioned his glasses firmly on his nose, gave a last look at his stops, and launched into the first of *Hildegard's* demanding ten movements.

The 1991 work, commissioned in part by the San Francisco chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is an aural rendering of 12th-century musical mystic Hildegard von Bingen's *De operatione Dei*. This book, written in 1773 when she was 75, describes ten visions. Using von Bingen's original titles and integrating snatches of her chant music, Ferko's organ cycle nonetheless expresses a thoroughly contemporary world view. Devoid of faux mysticism or any kind of sentimentality, *Hildegard* is muscular, mechanistic, bleak, and quirky. And, of course, the organ changes everything.

Saint Hildegard's ten visions take us through every stage of existence from "The Origin of Life" through "The Effect of Love" to "The End of Time." Ferko's score similarly covers all the bases, and gave the 89-stop Ruffini organ a good workout. The Chicago-based composer does not, however, imitate von Bingen's soaring style of chant. He is more interested in the colors to be obtained from the heavy metal of the pipes, some of which are downright murky and obscure. His textural experiments don't so much induce religious ecstasy in the listener as a kind of meditative stupor.

Cosmic construction

"The Origin of Life" started things off with the musical equivalent of water dripping. "The Construction of the World" got very hard hat, evoking a cosmic construction site. Correcting the medieval notion of a flat earth, the movement ended with a slowly accelerating alternation of two chords, suggestive of a sphere set spinning.

Ferko's sense of humor, not to mention virtuoso technique, was evident in "Human Nature," played entirely on the foot pedals. In all her wildest imaginings, did Hildegard ever see a man in a tuxedo bouncing up and down on

a bench, beating out boisterous bunches of triplets with the soles of his pumps? This movement worked equally well as music and performance art. Refusing to use his hands, the organist as self-willed amputee — was it a demonstration of bad faith, or a perverse exhibition of virtuosity? Whatever it was, it was immanently human.

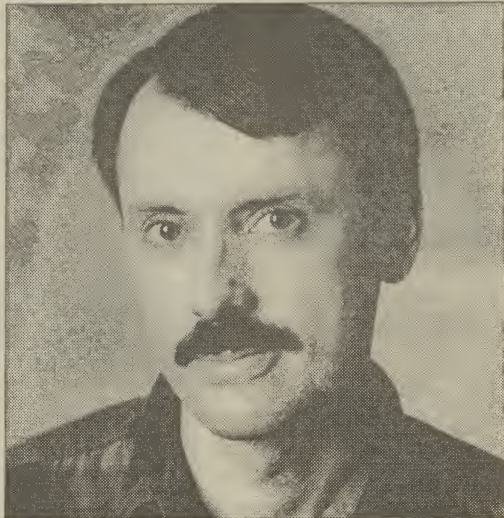
Generally more somber than joyous, *Hildegard's* only truly dismal patch was "Preparation for Christ." Described in the notes as "an extremely slow meditation," movement seven seemed sluggish or druggy, like a bad waitingroom experience. But as any Zen student or Web surfer will tell you, boredom is an essential part of the human condition.

There's not telling what Saint Hildegard, 900 years old this year, would have made of this very modern response to her holy hallucinations. Conceptual, methodical and stark, rife with repetition, streaked with Messianic and occa-

sionally echoing Philip Glass, *Hildegard* manages to be not only scholarly, but intensely personal. Compositional complexities aside, the score is driven by the beat of a man's heart. It is this conflation of individual organist and the created world which was ultimately so moving.

After "The End of Time" finished on a high-pitched whistle, Ferko took his bows, and well-wishers cued up to shake the organist's hand. Suddenly, the organ started up again. Everyone turned to see Mr. Tietze at the console, playing a hymn for vespers, which was being celebrated at a side chapel. Such is the life of an organ, passing from one pair of hands to the next. ▼

The *Hildegard Organ Cycle* is available on Arsis CD. Organ concerts, every Sunday at 3:30 p.m., St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. Admission by donation. 567-2020.



Frank Ferko

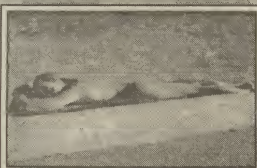
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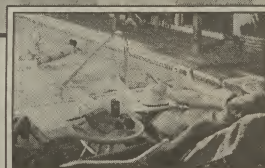
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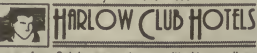


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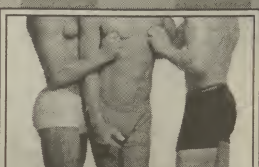
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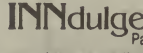


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A streetcar named Blanche

San Francisco Opera's 'A Streetcar Named Desire'

by Paul Thomason

A marvelous Sense of Occasion permeated the War Memorial Opera House last Saturday as the San Francisco Opera got ready to give the world premiere of André Previn and Philip Littell's *A Streetcar Named Desire* with the composer conducting. As the evening progressed, a palpable sense of relief swept the audience. "Thank god, it's not that awful contemporary music," was a remark I overheard several times.

In fact, Previn's music for *Streetcar* is very listenable. The term that kept coming to mind was "good movie music." I mean that to be neither derogatory nor dismissive, but purely descriptive. (Judging a new opera on one hearing is hardly ideal, but since the SF Opera does not let the press attend dress rehearsals, one hearing is all we got.) The music is tonal, with enough dissonance to remind the listener we are in 1998, not 1908. The orchestration can be quite lush, and the score often underpins the drama and emotion. Alas, too often it does so as movie music — framing the moment nicely, without intruding on the drama, rather than being a truly effective opera, where the music is the drama.

Previn does understand how to write a good curtain. The endings of all three acts are wonder-



Soprano Elizabeth Futral as Stella and baritone Rodney Gilfry as Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*

fully socko moments. But far too often, the vocal writing simply meanders aimlessly. There seems to be no reason a line should be written the way it is, rather than written some other way. Often there is no inevitability to it: the vocal line does not take over and create a riveting moment. Time after time, *Streetcar* almost works: Mitch's aria in Act II, a small duet for Stanley and Stella in Act III,

and much of Blanche's music throughout the opera, including the aria which Renée Fleming has recorded, "I Want Magic." The scene in Act II in which Blanche tells Mitch about her young husband's suicide was quite gripping, and Blanche's last aria, beginning "I can smell the sea air," is the one vocal moment that is truly satisfying from beginning to end.

It is important to remember that almost no great opera composer hit the jackpot the first time around, and this is Previn's first opera. I look forward to operas two and three.

Spinning pianissimi

As Blanche, Renée Fleming was in stunning voice. She could spin ethereal high pianissimi and unleash floods of vocal gold with equal ease. She was totally committed every moment of the long evening. It was a remarkable tour de force. Unfortunately, she did not come within a mile of being Blanche DuBois. Rather than being fragile and vulnerable, she was vulgar and whiny. Hers was pretty much a one-dimensional portrait (perhaps this was more Previn's doing than Fleming's?). The part is such a huge one that her performance was an impressive achievement, but I never cared about Blanche, never sympathized with her. An additional problem was Fleming's use of a thick Black accent, to approximate a Southern accent (there is a big difference), which also made it difficult to understand her without resorting to the supertitles.

There was a disturbing lack of chemistry between Fleming's Blanche and Rodney Gilfry's Stanley. Gilfry's pronunciation was pristine, and he has a nice torso, which was often on display. Unfortunately, his Stanley was a petulant, posturing, pretty boy, not a cauldron of seething animal masculinity. In this version of *Streetcar*, Blanche could have eaten him for lunch without half trying, vocally as well as dramatically. Saturday night, Blanche so dominated the opera that Stanley was almost a character on par with Blanche's suitor Mitch, rather than being a true balance for Blanche. Was this imbalance due to Previn or Gilfry, or both?

Elizabeth Futral, making her SF Opera debut as Stella, was superb, as was Anthony Dean Grif-

fey as Mitch. Both used their beautiful voices superbly and utilized every moment on stage to create three-dimensional, sympathetic characters. In the tiny role of the young newspaper boy, Jeffrey Lentz (making his company debut) was so appealing I wished there were much more to the part. I would very much like to hear him in a larger role. Judith Forst was a sympathetic Eunice.

Michael Yeargan's sets were quite effective, though why the bedroom should split apart (with prolonged audible creaks) from the kitchen/living room so the flower-seller could walk between them was a mystery, and it seemed downright perverse to separate the two rooms right before Stanley rapes Blanche. Otherwise, Colin Graham's direction was superb.

Given the obvious importance the San Francisco Opera has placed on this premiere, it seems churlish (to put it mildly) that the company refused to sell standing room to Saturday's performance. Deutsche Grammophon is recording and videotaping the next three performances for release on CD and video, and the opera will be seen on PBS' *Great Performances* series on December 30. To accommodate the cameras, the company will not sell orchestra-level standing room until the October 2 performance. But no one was able to explain why the standees were totally barred from the premiere. It seems just one more gratuitous slap in the face from the company's management to some of the city's most committed opera-lovers.

And San Francisco is filled with opera-lovers. The driver of the #42 bus I took home grilled me thoroughly on *Streetcar*. What was the music like, what was the production like, did the singers make me forget the movie? When I told him the opera would be telecast, he was in heaven. Now I ask you, what other town has bus drivers who really care about contemporary opera? ▼

Performances of *A Streetcar Named Desire* continue through October 11. Beginning October 2, the cast varies. For tickets and further information, call (415) 864-3330.

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Memento Mori

Remembering Terence McEwen

by Paul Thomason

Terence A. McEwen, one of the great figures in the world of opera, died last week at his home in Hawaii at the age of 69. Though most San Franciscans will remember McEwen primarily as general director of the San Francisco Opera from 1982 to 1988, his influence was far wider than simply running one international opera company.

Born in Canada in 1929, McEwen fell into the snare of opera as a teenager, and first hoped to make a career as a singer, but soon realized his voice was not sufficient. He joined Decca Records in London in 1950, moving to New York nine years later to head up the company's American division, London Records, a post he held until replacing Kurt Herbert Adler as head of the SFO in 1982.

It was during his years in New York that McEwen became a household name in the American opera world. As a regular panelist on the intermission quiz of the Metropolitan Opera's nationwide Saturday afternoon broadcasts, McEwen helped shape the way a generation or two thought about opera. His knowledge of singers and singing was probably unrivaled (certainly I never remember anyone besting him on the air), and he imparted his views with such élan that one could not disbelieve him.

A 1972 profile of Marilyn Horne, by *The New Yorker's* great music critic Winthrop Sargeant, began by quoting McEwen as saying Joan Sutherland was the world's greatest singer, but the world's greatest voice belonged to Horne. It was vintage McEwen: authoritative, clear, and passionate.

I remember one broadcast when McEwen told the story of meeting New York's music critics shortly after taking over London Records. After wining and dining the major critics individually, McEwen threw a brunch at his apartment for the second-string critics, during which, of course, he began playing recordings of some of his favorite singers. He put on a recording of the legendary Claudio Muzio, only to discover that none of the critics had ever heard of her. "Can you imagine?" he railed with indignation. "How can you judge the performance of a soprano today, if you don't know what one of the greatest sopranos of the Twentieth Century sounded like?"

Years later, one of McEwen's colleagues on the Met Quiz tried to tell me the party never happened, that McEwen often made up his stories, and was, in fact, not a good colleague, because he hogged the mike. I don't believe him. For years now, those of us who listen to the Quiz have cringed as panelists fail to identify such instantly recognizable voices as Birgit Nilsson or Jussi



Former General Director, San Francisco Opera, Terence A. McEwen

Björling, even when the moderator throws out hint after hint. We remember McEwen not only instantly identifying almost any voice, no matter how obscure, but — more importantly — being able to explain what made that voice unique and why the singer was good in one role and not in another.

Passionate obsession

It was his passionate obsession with voices that helped shape the careers of some of the best singers of his time: Joan Sutherland, Luciano Pavarotti, Marilyn Horne, Pilar Lorengar, Regine Crespin — the complete list would be a long

one. During his time as head of the San Francisco Opera, McEwen continued guiding singers by uniting the various training wings of the SF Opera into the San Francisco Opera Center. Yes, the company gave a much-lauded new production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* during McEwen's years (in which James Morris sang Wotan for the first time), as well as the American premiere of Michael Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* and the company's first performances of Verdi's *Don Carlo* in the original five-act French version. And flying Plácido Domingo across country at the last minute to step into an opening

night *Otello* for an ailing colleague was certainly high drama. But perhaps his more lasting legacy to the world of opera was his belief in young singers like Ruth Ann Swenson, Dolara Zajick, and Cheryl Parrish, whom he guided through the SF Opera Center.

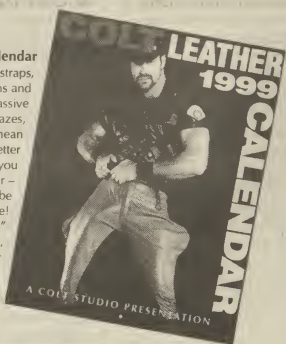
Only a few weeks ago, Christine Bullin, who had been head of the SF Opera Center and now is Directeur of the Centre de Formation Lyrique of the Opera National de Paris, visited McEwen at his home in Hawaii. McEwen had been in failing health for some time (he had diabetes, had smoked heavily for years, and adored good food). While she was there I asked her if he would be up to writing a book. "He had some offers a few years ago," Bullin replied, "but he couldn't be bothered. Terry is impossible to put on a schedule — this was true when he worked — and curiously, and perhaps admirably, he doesn't give a rip about posterity."

Nonetheless, his informed and informal advice to young singers and conductors in whom he believed will influence them, and the world of opera, for decades to come. And thousands of us will never be able to listen to recordings by Tiana Lemnitz or Richard Tauber or Bidu Sayao without remembering Terry McEwen, and being very grateful that his love of their artistry introduced us to his golden world of great singing. Grazie Maestro. ▼

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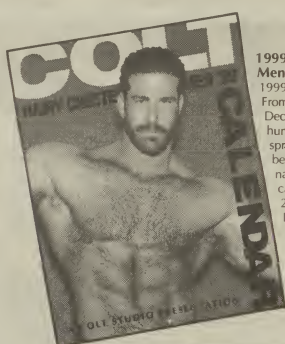
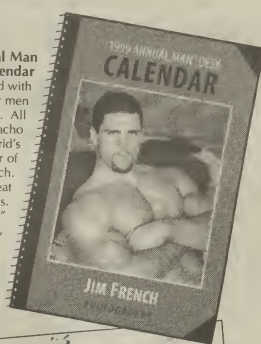
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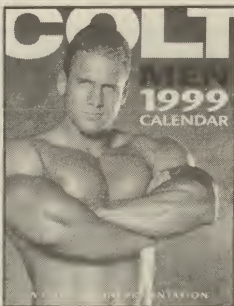
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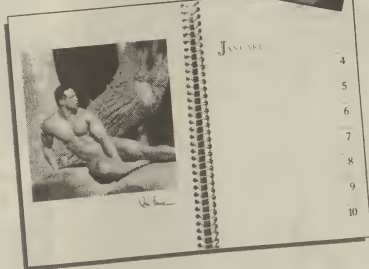
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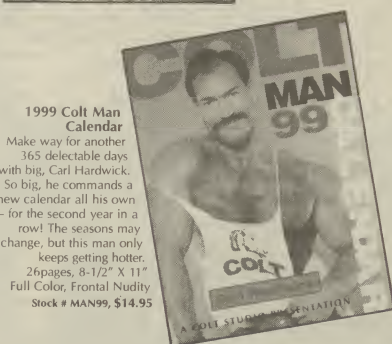
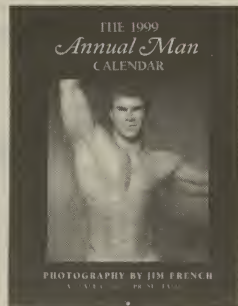
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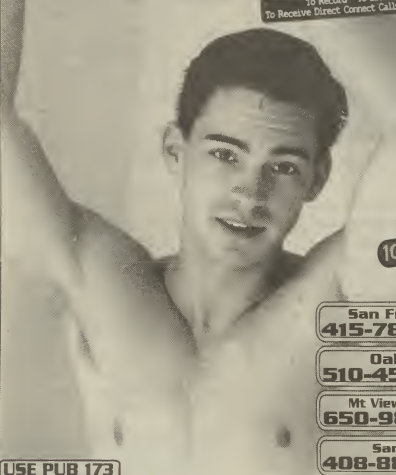
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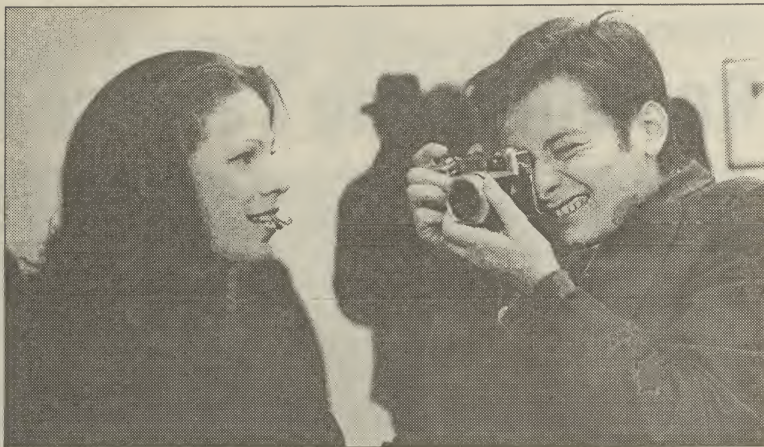
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Lili Taylor and Edward Furlong in John Waters' *Pecker***Pecker**

◀ page 44

ious writers, dealers, and hangers-on condescended to make him an art star. The film's final scene reveals a crush of pompous Manhattan art types flummoxed when they descend upon Baltimore to view pictures of queasy yokels and instead see photographs of themselves guzzling booze, sucking up, chowing down, and acting generally boorish and awful ("I hope there isn't a catalogue," screams Patty Hearst in a cameo).

As a thumbnail sketch, *Pecker* sounds like a smart satire of the art world, but it's not. In order for satire to succeed there must be a point of view, not merely burlesque. And in *Pecker*, Waters paints with such broad strokes

that everyone comes out the same color, making it hard to discern who he's satirizing and why. Is it the New York art world he's lampooning, or is it the gummy Baltimoreans, whom Waters seems to take just as much pleasure in sending up as he does those well-heeled Manhattanites? If the intent is to laugh at everyone's pretentiousness, then why does the film ask us to cheer Pecker on for making the city slickers look small?

On the purely comic level, *Pecker* packs in some good laughs, but on the whole the writing seems obvious and heavily underlined. Every gag is milked far beyond its natural life — hence, grandmother doesn't do her dummy routine once, she does it nearly half a dozen times, underscoring not so much the humor but the thinness of the comic device. Similarly, Pecker's sugar-crazed younger sister can't be seen once or twice in order to make the point that America is on a sugar drip, she pops up in every other scene, reducing a third-rate joke to a pulverizing gimmick. Much of the dialogue either falls flat or doesn't make sense coming from certain characters. A line like "I love you more than Kodak," which Shelley screams to Pecker when she thinks she's losing him to the lure of the art world, is not only unfunny but sounds a tad conventional coming from a character who just moments earlier referred to a man as a "fuck-wad and ass-wipe."

Of course, discontinuity of character, lack of a point of view, and overworked gimmicks have always been part and parcel of Waters' films, which are unique for working brilliantly despite their stylistic insufficiencies. But previous Waters films, from the early *Mondo Trasho* to the recent and much underrated *Serial Mom*, benefited from brilliant casting, the actors themselves frequently being weirder than the characters they were playing (surely Divine, Edith Massey, and David Lochary were from another planet). In *Pecker* we get a middling script married to an uninspired cast. As Pecker, actor Edward Furlong can't seem to find any more creative way to express his character's naiveté than to grin cretinously from beginning to end, proving that he is perhaps, the most inexpressive actor in Hollywood. Christina Ricci's Shelley is the stock blend of brains and bitchery she conjures for every film, and Martha Plimpton is superfluous in every way as a fag-hag sister. Mary Kay Place as Pecker's mother and Lili Taylor as an overambitious art dealer are fun but underutilized.

Pecker finds Waters searching, stretching his artistic wings. But one can only hope that his latest is just a stopgap on the way to something better, and not a sign of things to come. ▼

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Oakland Ballet's season opener

Commedia dell'Oakland

by Aimée Ts'ao

I have a special place in my heart for Oakland Ballet. Although not the biggest, most technically proficient or most heavily endowed dance company in the Bay Area, its importance as the repository for some of the greatest choreographic masterpieces of the twentieth century far outweighs any deficiencies. I was a little disappointed that the first program of their season this past weekend at Valley Center for the Performing Arts at Holy Names College in the Oakland hills did not include any of these works. However, I was pleased to see an enthusiastic audience, from a broad cross-section of the Bay Area, which is another reason this company is so necessary. It definitely has succeeded in reaching out to the community and developing a dance audience for the future.

Besides the company premiere of Assistant Artistic Director Michael Lowe's *The Emperor and the Nightingale*, the company performed two pieces from the repertory, *Dvorák Dances* and *Carnival D'Aix*, both by Artistic Director Ronn Guidi. The *Dvorák* is a light concoction of wispified peasant costumes, lilting music, and youthful flirtation. Perhaps with a bit more of attack by the dancers to give the steps contrasting dynamics, and either a touch of décor or more suggestive lighting, the piece would have been more filling than a meringue. Even so, it was still enjoyable.

Carnival D'Aix, with its black-and-white geometric take on *commedia dell'arte* costumes, was fun. While not particularly innovative, its humor, aided by the witty Milhaud score, and interesting choreography for the ensemble kept me engaged. Basically, using all the classic *commedia* characters and plots, Guidi's sketch covers the gamut of human emotions engendered when the two sexes (at least in the straight world) meet and mix. It should be noted that this piece was originally choreographed for an Oakland festival celebrating the music of Milhaud, who lived and worked in the Bay Area for many years while a professor of composition at Mills College.

Enchanted forest

The curtain rose on *The Emperor and the Nightingale* to reveal a shadowy forest, created entirely by the lighting of Robert Klemm. As the action began, the trees seemed to sway in the wind and even appeared three-dimensional. The music of Mark Attebery, weaving together naturalistic sounds with traditional instruments as well as Chinese ones, evoked an Oriental atmosphere without resorting to the usual Hollywood film soundtrack clichés. Being of Chinese descent, I especially appreciated this new approach.

The plot, based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale of the same name, unfolds smoothly, the dancing effectively communicating what is happening on stage so the need to read the synopsis is obviated. The dancers all performed with precision and élan, especially the two nightingales in their contrasting styles of



From the Oakland Ballet's production of Ronn Guidi's *Carnival D'Aix*.

naturalistic versus mechanical. Although the choreography was stylized to suggest the Far East, incorporating movements from

the martial arts, at times bits of classical ballet slipped in, creating a fleeting inconsistency.

Toward the end, as the Em-

peror is sick and possibly dying, he confronts the figure of Death in his delirium. Death is very originally conceived as an amor-

phous body with two heads, two sets of hands, and four legs. Here the choreography goes beyond anything ever dreamed up by Pliobolus or Mummenschanz.

The final tableau, with the real nightingale perched on the Emperor's throne, was beautiful in its touching simplicity, the allegorical last word. The curtain came down with a well-deserved roar from the audience.

If any funding sources out there are reading this, please note that Oakland Ballet is vital to the dance community of the Bay Area, if not the country. They have already canceled their spring touring schedule due to lack of money. We cannot afford to lose this company. Where else can you see recreations of many ballets from the Diaghilev era, Nijinska's *Les Noceurs*, *Les Biches*, and *Bohème*, for which Ravel composed his famous score; not to mention historically important pieces such as Loring's *Billy the Kid* and de Mille's *Fall River Legend*? And you, the audience, can become empowered yourselves by getting out that checkbook and sending a donation, as well as attending performances.

Oakland Ballet continues their fall season on October 16-18 at the Paramount Theatre, with the full-length *Romeo and Juliet* choreographed by Ronn Guidi to the music of Sergei Prokofiev. Call (510) 452-9288 for tickets and information. ▼

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'Chicago' couple

◀ page 41

of *Evita*. Gill, on the other hand, was content to remain as company manager of *Phantom* on Broadway.

"I knew it was going to take something very special for me to leave *Phantom*, because I had been there nine years," Gill said, "but when I saw *Chicago*, I really got excited. It personally appeals to me, not as a theater professional, but just as a theatergoer." He quit *Phantom* to become company manager of *Chicago* on Broadway.

Meanwhile, Gaughan was offered the chance to conduct the touring company of *Chicago* that opened last winter in Los Angeles. "I think the reason we ended up out here is on my shoulders, because I really wanted to do *Chicago*, especially because it was a chance to put a new company to-

gether, which is the most exciting part for me," Gaughan said.

Gill then requested a transfer from the Broadway to the touring company, which is not a request producers hear a lot. "Touring is difficult, no doubt about it," Gill said. "Jack and I sat down and talked a long time about doing this. We knew it would be OK as long as we were together. I don't think either one of us could have survived if it was just one of us out here."

They have each other and they have *Chicago*. "It's a thrill," Gill said, "to work on something you truly believe in."

Lean and mean

This revival of *Chicago* is one of the decade's unexpected hits. The musical version of the story of Roxie Hart, a murderer who beats the rap and becomes a celebrity thanks to a slick lawyer and the willing media, was a respectable hit of the mid-70s. A few years ago, the *Encore!* series in New York offered a concert version of *Chicago* for a four-night run, and the reaction to the stripped-down production was sensational. Plans to bring it to Broadway began immediately, and a decision was made to preserve the lean-and-mean look of the *Encore!* version. The show is a bigger hit the second time around.

"It's truly a performance-driven show," Gill said. "The choreography that Ann Reinking has put together based on Bob Fosse's

original is unique, the score by Kander and Ebb is wonderful, and because the production doesn't have any big scenic elements, it lets you use your imagination. And the cast is wearing not a lot of clothes, and I think that has a lot to do with it, too. It's a sexy, hot production."

The story may have also found its decade. "When it first came out, we hadn't had the O.J. Simpson trial, or the Menendez Brothers trial, or the nanny trial," Gaughan said, "and that's what this show is about. It's about razle dazzle them, and cover up the facts under the hoopla, and make a celebrity out of a criminal."

What's next for Gill and Gaughan? Gill, who has produced several Off-Broadway shows, would love to be a full-time producer "if I could find enough properties that I truly believed in." Gaughan, as a Broadway conductor, has climbed that ladder about as far he can, though helping to birth new projects is still a "blast," he said.

"I think Michael is going to be producing some more shows, and I'm going to probably be helping him do that," Gaughan said.

"But," Gill said, "what's next is a hard question to answer when you're really happy with what you're doing at the moment." ▼

Chicago will run at the Golden Gate Theatre from Sept. 29 through Nov. 7. Tickets are \$27-\$72. Call 776-1999.

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SCHEDULE

Folsom Street Fair showcases talent

Amongst the San Francisco music community, the Folsom Street Fair has a well-deserved reputation for being one of the best outdoor street festivals to play. Although no one performing gets paid, everyone gets treated well, which is more than you can say for some other festivals. Besides, who wouldn't want to play in front of thousands of half-naked people? Now in its fifteenth year, Folsom has consistently showcased some of the best local talent this city has to offer, thanks in part to the tireless efforts of booker Nancy Kravitz. This year is no exception, with one of the most musically diverse line-ups in recent memory. Hard rock, punk, blues, country, glam-pop, lounge, old-school drag, new-school drag, and rap are all featured—definitely something for everyone. ▼

7th Street Stage

12:00 - 12:30 Dirtbox
12:30 - 12:45 Hayle & Stone
12:45 - 1:15 Lawn Vultures
1:15 - 1:30 David Maher
1:30 - 2:00 Sparrow's Point
2:00 - 2:15 Bearatones
2:15 - 2:45 Drip Joy
2:45 - 3:00 Veronica Klaus
3:00 - 3:30 Kofy Brown
3:30 - 3:45 Wenda Watch
3:45 - 4:15 Blue Period
4:15 - 4:30 Deena Jones
4:30 - 5:00 Imperial Teen
5:00 - 5:15 Drag Kings
5:15 pm The Cheeseballs



Sparrow's Point



Bearatones

12th Street Stage

11 am Little Deaths
12:00 - 12:30 Frenchy
12:30 - 12:45 The Andrews Sisters
12:45 - 1:15 The Kuntry K's
1:15 - 1:30 Meri St. Mary
1:30 - 2:00 Glamour Pussies
2:00 - 2:15 Leather Title Holders
2:15 - 2:45 Black Kali Ma
2:45 - 3:00 Stinky's Peep Show
3:00 - 3:30 Fabulous Disaster
3:30 - 3:45 Castro Cowboy
3:45 - 4:15 Glitter Panthers
4:15 - 4:30 Trannyshack
4:30 - 5:00 Enrique
5:15 pm Most Chill Slack Mob



Veronica Klaus



Fabulous Disaster



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Aria finalist Richard Nickol

Gershwin's 100th

Pianist and composer Seth Monfort, founder of the San Francisco Concerto Orchestra, considers George Gershwin not only one of the most famous American composers of piano music, but one of the hardest to interpret.

"The technical and stylistic demands required to perform his music are not often found in either classical or jazz pianists," he writes in notes describing the 1998 International Piano and Vocal Competitions, to take place at Herbst Theatre this Saturday, September 26, on Gershwin's 100th birthday.

Monfort's orchestra, along with piano Sherman Clay Steinway/Boston Music Festival, are using the occasion to present a day-long festival featuring competitions for excellence in interpreting Gershwin's vocal and piano pieces, a special performance of Gershwin piano works by Monfort, and a winners showcase gala.

Starting off the affair, at 10 a.m., will be a presentation of the Bay Area Young Musicians Recital Competition Finals. So talented are the Bay Area's young (under 22) musicians, quips Monfort, that older musicians usually do everything they can to make sure the "children" aren't heard in public "because we are deeply intimidated by them."

At noon the Gershwin Category International Piano Competition takes place, with pianists specializing in Gershwin traveling from across North America and the Atlantic Ocean to take part.

Following that, at 3 p.m., more than 50 entrants in the Concerto and Aria Category Finals will compete for top prizes. Here the pieces performed encompass a wide range of composers from a Rachmaninoff concerto by 15 year old Maeve Brophy to a Puccini aria by tenor Richard Nickol in the "over 22" age category. One finalist hails from as far away as Hanoi, Vietnam — soprano Xuan Thanh, who will sing an aria by Bizet.

That evening, at 6 p.m., Monfort himself will take to the ivories, interpreting the complete works of Gershwin for solo piano.

Finally, at 8:30 p.m., the festival will showcase the winners and finalists from the various categories. ▼

Tickets to San Francisco Concerto Orchestra's Gershwin birthday festival are \$15 for an all-day pass, or \$5 for each concert, and are available by calling (415) 648-6943. The event takes place at Herbst Theatre, War Memorial Veteran's Building, 401 Van Ness Ave.



Erotic leathersmen imagery by Leon, on display at his open studio. See Friday.

Egi

Yugen/Noh Space

The men of Equal Voices, a 12-member gay vocal ensemble, present "It's A Girl Thing," music made famous by women from Ella Fitzgerald to Madonna. Featuring special guest Lisa Gray, plus Sean Owens as Carol Channing. \$18-\$30. Also tomorrow & 10/2 & 3. 8pm. Theater of Yugen, Noh Space, Theater Artaud Complex, 2840 Mariposa. 840-0629. Tickets available at A Different Light Bookstore.

177 Townsend St. @ 3rd

"Link: The Kick-Off Party for the Folsom Street Fair Weekend." Produced by Jito Garcia. Featuring DJ Darin Arrowood of Atlanta. \$15 advance (tix at Body, Undercover, Mainline Gifts, Paulo's Juice, & A Taste of Leather, or phone 1-800-494-TIXS); \$20 door. 10pm-4am. Hotline: 552-5900.

Open studio

Erotic artist Leon, official portrait artist for Int'l Mr. Leather, shows his creations on two days during Leather Week. Original art, prints, and cards will be on display for sale. Today and 9/27, noon-4pm. 4623 18th St. (5 blocks off Castro St.).

Bayfront Theatre

Sean San José presents a series of short AIDS-related works in "Solo Pieces of the Quilt," as part of Solo Mio, Climate Theatre's 9th annual solo performance festival. Accompaniment by DJ Fuze of Digital Underground, percussionist Josh Jones of Latin Quartet, and vocalist Sheherazade Stone of Human Flavor. 8pm. Also on 9/26. Bldg. B, 3rd Floor, Fort Mason Center. Tickets at City Box Office: 392-4400.

Club Boomerang

"Girl Fest San Francisco," featuring See Jane Run, My Tribe, the Jessica Rose Band, CRUSH, and Ember Rose, with emcee Melissa Banales, comedy by Mindy Dawn Friedman, spoken word by RAE and Wendy O-Matic, and singers Dirt Dogan and Jennifer Daniels. Djs REB and AD. \$7 cover. Doors open 8pm; show starts 8:30pm. 1840 Haight St. Info: 771-1645.

Cowell Theatre

"Diamonds, Shells & Amber," dance from the Middle East, the South Pacific, and beyond. Featuring Suhaila Sallimporu, Carolina Nericcio, and Maheha Uchiyama. Includes musical ensembles. A celebration of the female spirit and a physical display of the strength and beauty of women. \$21 & \$26 at door. 8pm. (also tomorrow at 2pm & 8pm) Fort Mason

Center. 835-3154.

Josie's Cabaret

Tallulah Bankhead returns from the dead to appear at her favorite camp ground in a raucous evening of drag mayhem. She dishes dirt, settles scores, rewrites history, and introduces secret guests. \$10. 8pm. Thru 9/26. 861-7933.

Revelation Gallery

Grand opening reception for this new space, featuring the artwork of painter Craig LaRonda, who boasts actor Johnny Depp as one of his admirers (Depp bought six paintings). Free. 8pm. 1114 Harrison St. (entrance on Langton).

Contra Costa College Performing Arts Center

Clay David directs Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" in a production that directly confronts the leading man's homosexuality. Starring Noah Butler, Angela Aquistapace, Peter Temple, and Bonnie Stingley. \$10 (\$7 students/seniors). Thru 10/3. (510) 236-3323.

The Lab

"Projexpo 98: A Spaceport Resort" features SensorChip, a trio of musicians who trigger unearthly sound samples using custom sensor technology, with Pamela Z, Miya Masaoka, and Donald Swearingen.

Followed (at 10pm) by sci-fi films. Presented by Please

Louise Productions/Museo Contempo. \$10. 8pm-midnight. 2948 16th St. (adjacent to Theater Rhino). 864-5453.

Theatre Rhinoceros

"The Lady in Question," by drag diva Charles Busch, directed by Danny Scheie. A sendup of WWII propaganda films and their deliciously self-sacrificing heroines risking all to seduce and subdue sadistic Nazis. \$21. Runs thru 10/10. Reservations: 861-5079. Surf: www.therhino.org.

New Conservatory Theatre

Continuation of F. Allen Sawyer's "Gross Indulgences: The Trials of Liberate." A hilarious portrait of America's icon of kitsch. Starring David Bicha, Trauma Flintstone, and Tom Judson. Thru 10/10. \$12 (\$15 Fridays & Saturdays). 8pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

Footloose @ Venue 9

Alison Wright performs her original works, "Mr. Backlash" and "Ms. Thang, Europe's That Way!" Co-presented by the S.F. Art Commission. \$12. 8pm. Thru 9/26. 252 9th St. Info: 289-2000.

Artfull Circle Theatre

Composer Mark Sargent joins the cast of "Eve," a musical parody of the movie "All About Eve." Directed by Dana Peter Porras. \$20 (\$15 on Thursdays). Thru 9/27. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. Tickets: 474-8800; BASS; Tix Union Square.

Sat

Davies Symphony Hall

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus celebrates its 20th Anniversary with a newly commissioned work, "Q." Directed by Dr. Stan Hill. \$10-\$50. 8pm. Tickets from available at Davies box office (phone 864-6000), Chorus Tickets (1-888-445-FGMG), and Chorus Box Office, 400 Castro St.

The Galleria

"Magnitude: The Official Black Party of the Folsom Street Fair." Produced by Jito Garcia. A circuit-party for 2,000+ revelers, featuring DJ BUC. \$35 advance (tix available at Undercover, Body, Mainline Gifts, Paulo's Juice Bar, & A Taste of Leather); \$40 door. VIP Weekend Pass tix for \$100 include VIP lounge & admission to "Link" and "After Shock." 10pm-5am. 101 Henry Adams St. Hotline: 552-5900.

California Club

Queer Swing Dance presented by Swing Out! All welcome; fancy dress encouraged. Beginning swing lesson 7-8:30pm. DJ dancing to 40s style big band music till midnight. \$5-\$10 sliding. 1750 Clay (btwn. Polk & Van Ness). 339-8103.

New Conservatory Theatre

"Like A Vampire," a world premiere by Bru Dye, directed by Arturo Catricala. Dracula stalks the boys of Victoria England. Contains male nudity. Thru 10/31. 8pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

Angel Island

Team San Francisco and the San Francisco FrontRunners host the 17th Annual Lesbian Sports Day and Picnic. Join more than 30 sports clubs and bring sports equipment for running, bicycling, volleyball, softball, football,

frisbee, hiking, swimming, or other. A pot-luck lunch will take place in the East Garrison Picnic Area. Chartered Blue and Gold Fleet ferry departs Pier 41 at Fisherman's Wharf at 8:30am. \$10 round-trip available at A Different Light Bookstore and Marina Cyclery in the Castro. Info: 522-2386 or 978-2429.

The Attic

Poetry reading by Kevin Opedal, Leslie Davis, Hoa Nguyen, Dale Smith, and Michael Price. 5:30pm. 3336 24th St (btwn. Valencia & Mission).

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema continues its 4-part mini-series "Electromagnetic Dread," investigating contemporary electronic tyranny. Tonight premieres "Holes in Heaven?" by Paula Randol-Smith, focusing on the U.S. government's HAARP Project, a high-voltage installation in Alaska many claim is a ground-based Star Wars weapon system. Also "Hard Drive," a semi-fictionalized road movie following a pair of radicals discussing on the Unabomber, the Zapatistas, hackers, and others. \$5. 8:30pm. Artists' Television Access Gallery, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

The Lab

"Projexpo 98: A Spaceport Resort" presents "Space Minstrels," a rock opera by alien vocalists Len and Christy Knittle. \$10. 8pm-midnight. 2948 16th St. 864-5453.

Mad Magda's

The Magicians Laboratory, hosted by Daniel Alistair with special guest James Hamilton. Professional magicians try out their latest illusions in the Magic Garden. \$5. 7:30pm. 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Syn

Folsom Street Fair

In its 15th year, the world's ultimate leather fest runs 11am-6pm along the five blocks between 7th and 12th streets. Produced by SM-MILE (South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events). Don your sexy harnesses, boots, and jockstraps and join the fun.

715 Harrison St. @ 3rd

"After Shock," an after-hours dance party produced by Jito Garcia. Featuring DJ Mike Dureto of the Probe, Los Angeles. \$20 advance (tix from Body, Undercover, Mainline Gifts, Paulo's Juice, & A Taste of Leather, or phone 1-800-494-TIXS); \$25 door. 4am-11am. Hotline: 552-5900.

Stormy Leather

Reception for photographer Geoffrey Nelson, featuring work from his series "Les Angeles Nus" dealing with women as mythical creatures. Free. 3-5pm. 1158 Howard St. 626-1672.

Cat Club

"Worship," a party featuring bondage demonstrations, fire, "slave boy" dancers, massage, spanking and "buttloads" of free prizes. Front room DJs spin progressive house, trance, trip hop, and jungle. Produced by Cougar Cash ("Freak Show"). \$10 advance (tix from Always Tan & Trim, Mad Magda's, Music System, Soundworks, Mr. S Leather); \$15 door. 5pm-7 1190 Folsom St. @ 8th. Info: 565-0925.

Paradise Lounge

Poetry Above Paradise features Marci Blackman and Letta Nealy, followed by an



Paintings by Craig LaRotonda, on display at his new Revelation Gallery. See Friday.

open reading. Hosted by Jennifer Joseph. Free. 8pm. 21+ with ID. 1501 Folsom St. 621-1911.

Community Music Center

Open rehearsal of "Songs of Then and Now," a new work by Bay Area composer Andrew Imbrie, based on texts by ee. cummings, Shakespeare, and Robert Louis Stevenson, featuring the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and the San Francisco Girls Chorus. Audience members will have a chance to talk with the composer. Free. 3:30pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

SFMOMA

"Alexander Calder: 1898-1976," the first American retrospective since the artist's death. The exhibition includes some 200 paintings and sculptural objects, most notably Calder's famous mobiles. \$8 general; \$5 seniors;

\$4 students. 10am-6pm daily (closed Wednesdays). Thru 12/1. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St. 357-4000.

Mon

Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together (MacT) holds its meet and chat with Supervisor Tom Ammiano. Ask questions and dish about City Hall. Free. 7pm. Upstairs. Harrison btwn. 9th & 10th.

Theater of Yugen

The Unbound Spirit Dance Company performs "Camp Stories," choreographed by Claudine Naganuma, Kimiko Guthrie-Kupers, and Debra Kajiyama. Presented by Asian American Dance Performances. \$8. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St.

Tues

Bethany United Methodist

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band perform "Carried Away," from cowboy music to sailors' songs to British marches. Featuring Ron Nelson's "Rocky Point Holiday," Holst's "Somerset Rhapsody," selections from Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," "Rodeo," and "Appalachian Spring," and Bernstein's ballet "Fancy Free." Jadine Louie conducts.

A program of the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts. Free. 8:15pm. 1268 Sanchez Street @ Clipper. 554-0402.

DNA Lounge

"Audiorotic" party celebrating the publication of "Transceptor," a graphic (hetero-oriented) novel by artists Michael Manning and Patrick Conlon. Features erotic dancer/performance artist Jade Blue Eclipse, contortionist Suzy Ming, The Spider Garden dancers, plus rope fantasy by fetish diva Midori. Fashions by So Hip It Hurts. Music by Helios Creed (appearing as Dark Matter), Bond Bergland, and turntablist DJ Akashic. \$5. 9pm-2am. 375 11th St. 550-7640.

SFMOMA

Opening of "A Portrait of our Times: An Introduction to the Logan Collection," highlighting 27 paintings, sculptures and photographs from the collection of Vicki and Kent Logan. Included are works by artists of the 1960s and '70s responding to issues of society and history (including Gerhard Richter and Andy Warhol) and several from the

1980s and '90s addressing gender, sexuality, and cultural identity issues (Jeff Koons and Wei Liu among them). \$8 (\$5 students). 11am-6pm. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

WED

Y. Q.U.E.!
Young, Queer & Under Emergency presents "The Zoo," a place for all under-25 gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender Latinos/as to meet. Free. Every Tuesday at 6:30pm. Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida (PCPV), 2973 16th St. (at Mission). 864-7278.

Wed 30

Space Gallery

Reception for "Momentum," in which homeless and runaway youth document their experiences with Polaroid images (cameras donated by Polaroid Corporation). A joint venture between Larkin Street Youth Center (LSYC, which benefits from the proceeds) and members of the S.F. art community. Hosted by Norah and Norman Stone. \$25 (\$10 students & artists). 6-10pm. 1141 Polk St. (at Sutter). Tickets from LSYC: 749-3849.

Footloose@Venue 9

"Prisms: Light Connects to Sound," an evening of music, light, language and culture. Part of the venue's Experimental Music, Film and Video Series. Several works by Bay Area artists/groups. \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). 626-2169.

Thur

Exploration: City Site

Unconditional Theatre presents Richard Dresser's play, "Below the Belt," billed as an absurdist satire in which "the need to connect with fellow workers does furious battle with the need to protect one's tenuous position in the corporate food chain. Directed by John Warren. \$12-\$15 sliding. Thursdays - Saturdays thru 10/24. 8pm. San Francisco Art Commission's Exploration: City Site, 165 Grove St. (across from City Hall, btwn. Van Ness & Polk). Tickets/info: 437-5527.

The Lab

A double bill featuring "Performance Art Saints," in which Linda Montano channels the energy of the 1940s and Jackie Gleason, and "Ritual," in which Miya Masaoka lies naked with giant Madagascar cockroaches roaming freely on her body, their images projected onto a large video screen and their hissing sound amplified to create a musical backdrop. \$7-\$10 sliding. Also 10/2 8pm 2948 16th St. 864-8855

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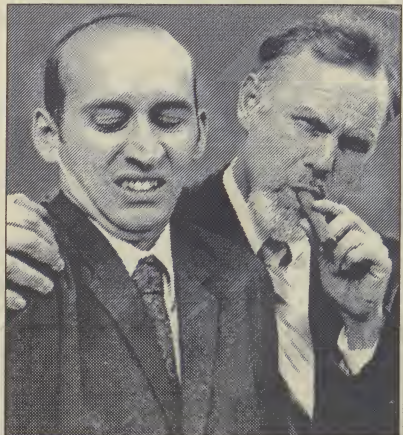
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Chris Kuckenbaker and Gene Thompson play in *Below the Belt* at Exploration: City Site. See Thursday.

John Warren

Noir banquet

by Matthew Kennedy

Dark City: The Lost World of Film Noir by Eddie Muller; St. Martin's, \$22.95

In *Dark City*, Bay Area resident Eddie Muller has written a speedy, affectionate and witty tour of the American postwar urban underbelly as fantasized in film noir. All of the standard titles are here, with plots summarized and reinterpreted in a flowing linear style. Of course you can expect tributes to *Double Indemnity*, *Mildred Pierce*, *Laura*, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *Leave Her to Heaven*, *In a Lonely Place*, *The Asphalt Jungle*, *The Big Sleep* and *Murder, My Sweet*. The sacred cow stars Barbara Stanwyck, Humphrey Bogart, James Cagney and Edward G. Robinson are similarly exhumed and celebrated all over again. With gleeful regularity, there is a photo or two on nearly every page. And Muller rightfully honors such undervalued Dark City denizens as Gloria Grahame, Robert Ryan and Ida Lupino, who deserves some kind of Purple Heart for nerves of steel and ovaries of brass.

As Muller demonstrates, noir was no marginal genre surviving, as did its heroes and villains, on the fringes of respectability. Just as Mae West, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler and Ethel Merman became unlikely interpreters of disco, a bevy of actors with contrary dispositions gave noir a try. See tight-assed Loretta Young turn into a killer psychologist and cover-up artist in *The Accused*. See breezy Dick Powell grow stubble and get churlish in *Murder, My Sweet*. See even Mickey Rooney, erstwhile Andy Hardy himself, do time on noir row in *Quicksand*



Joan Crawford (left) and Ann Blyth in *Mildred Pierce*.

and *The Strip*.

Muller clearly loves his subject and went searching for rare titles and obscure rewards. He has heaps of praise for Edmund Goulding's *Nightmare Alley*, which featured Tyrone Power as an unrepentant charlatan turned circus geek. Then there's Vincent Sherman's *The Damned Don't Cry*, a wildly entertaining vehicle that lets Joan Crawford hang onto memories of youthful allure with every claw.

Muller lets fly with a few bracing theses. The decline of classic film noir has been debated ad nauseam, usually pointing the finger at television, '50s prosperity, and conservatism blah blah. But Muller believes it died with Marion Crane in the Bates Motel. At that moment, Alfred Hitchcock redefined what we could see in the movies, and noir's brooding suggestions of sin and violence gave way to stark-

er visions of blood and guts. His argument makes sense. The knife never touched Janet Leigh's flesh in *Psycho*, but her blood that spirals down the drain flows between the relatively polite violence of the 1940s and '50s and the spewing eviscera of Arthur Penn (*Bonnie and Clyde*), Sam Peckinpah (*The Wild Bunch*), and Francis Ford Coppola (*The Godfather*).

It took Roman Polanski and *Chinatown* to merge primordial noir tropes (jaded P.I., mysterious woman, institutional corruption) with 1970s graphic freedom. Alas, that great flick did not inspire a born again genre. It remains, much to its enduring credit, both a spectacular hybrid and an anomaly. But noir fans need not weep. As Muller reminds us, there is a glorious stash of movies out there loaded with style and audacity that have their own timeless allure. ▼

PERFORMANCE

Married to music



Actress Audrey Smith sings the show-tunes, jazz, and demented clown songs of Mark Kennedy, with Jeffrey Gaeto on piano, in "Audrey Does Kennedy," Sundays at 7:30 p.m. through October 4 at Piau's Restaurant and Cabaret, 1686 Market St. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more information, call 864-3700. ▼

All Keyed up

by Garland Richard Kyle

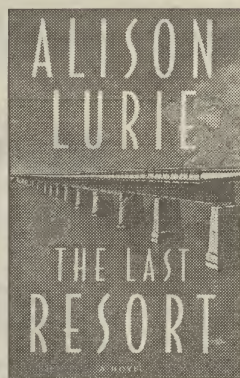
The Last Resort by Alison Lurie; Henry Holt, \$22

Besides its natural, isolated beauty, Key West has long been known for the host of characters that have inhabited this tiny coral rock only ninety miles from Cuba. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alison Lurie has assembled a menagerie of Key West lives that often dangle in a delicate balance, whether they be spring break holiday-makers, winter refugees fleeing the frozen North, or the immigrants who now call the resort home.

One of Lurie's most poignant characters is Molly Hopkins, an eighty-one-year-old artist and full-time citizen of Key West. A woman who has lived too many years, and whose life is waning, she is biding her time awaiting death.

"In Molly's world, death appeared as ... a whole company or battalion or army of flying red dinosaurs. These stupid, greedy reptiles cruised forever over the earth, occasionally and randomly swooping down to snatch someone in their long carnivorous jaws. Sometimes, since they were not only stupid but clumsy, they dropped their victims again in a more or less damaged condition (heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, fractured hip). But drawn by the scent of blood, they would be back."

Molly is the widow of an old friend of Wilkie Walker. Wilkie, a famous naturalist who is planning his suicide, has come with his wife Jenny to spend the winter in order to complete his final book, *The Copper Beach*. Long the dutiful appendage of her renowned husband, Jenny finds herself stranded, her husband withdrawn and estranged. In search of refuge from her domestic life, Jenny finds solace (and a part-time job) with the



beautiful Lee, the owner of a women-only bed and breakfast. It's Lee's quiet courage that lures her.

Jacko, the handsome caretaker of the Walker's vacation rental, has just learned that he is HIV-positive and has inherited the house. In one of the most amusing scenes in the novel, Jacko's visiting aunt Myra has invited Molly to lunch.

Decrying the "loose, perverse atmosphere" of Key West, Myra tells Molly, "I saw two men kissing each other, smooching right out in public. And they were both half naked. They wouldn't dare try that in Tulsa."

"I suppose not," said Molly, who had never been to Tulsa and now had even less desire to go.

Despite its disappointing ending, Lurie's *The Last Resort* is a wonderful rendering of life on the edge of our huge continent. She indulges her characters and their various emotional states with such humanity that they seem to be effortlessly conceived. Her evocative images of a tropical, tourist-laden paradise are beautifully drawn, despite the often disturbing undercurrents that haunt the dwellers of this last resort. ▼

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BOOKS

The citizen of the world

by Jim Nawrocki

Say Goodnight by Timothy Liu;
Copper Canyon Press, \$14.

In his new collection of poems, *Say Goodnight*, Timothy Liu speaks with the voice of an inveterate traveler. His poems move us over continents, through cultures, and through history, and in their journeys they confront the mysteries and the consolations of life and love, as well as the trials of loss and injustice. Liu's reach is broad; he writes capably of the dark margins of homosexual culture, and of the transcendent powers of a love undefined by particular desires, gay or straight.

One of the most notable aspects of this collection is Liu's ability to make his readers return to his poems. Many of them are quite brief, presented in spare brush strokes that require us to

look and look again. In "Treasures on Earth," for example, one of the first poems in the collection, Liu establishes this challenge: "What no one wants. Coin by coin/ we forget our burdens, our eyes drawn/ upward to a white sky, an icy cake/ whose candles the world has blown out." That's the complete poem, and yet brief as it is, it resonates with themes that move through the other poems in this collection.

Many of the poems are elegiac meditations on loss: of lovers, friends, and even the loss of youth. Liu sets the tone early in the book, with poems like "That Summer," about the grave of a pet parakeet: "What is touched by loss/ is sometimes made more sacred — that grave/ exhumed at last by a neighborhood stray."

Liu is at his best when he confronts these difficult but universal themes, and he reaches some of his most poignant, beautiful mo-

ments in doing so. In a suite of poems entitled "Nocturnes," for example, he moves from the base and common toward the transcendent, in a manner reminiscent of Philip Larkin's famous "High Windows." "Nocturnes" begins in the seedy ambience of an adult video arcade, and concludes with a solitary lover ruminating on the absence of a departure: "Even a pyre/ is nothing more than a passing hour —/ a bulletin that the heart's mute theater/ has lost its patron."

As if to accentuate the manner in which these poems inform each

other, Liu employs the curious technique of using the same title for several poems in the collection. There's a poem called "Say Goodnight" in each of the four sections in the book, as well as three poems entitled, "Last Day." It's a method that could easily fall flat as a gimmick in the hands of a less capable poet, but for Liu the echo of titles helps tie the collection together, and reinforces the message that these poetic journeys demand a return trip. In the fourth section of *Say Goodnight*, Liu groups a series of "political" poems that tackle such topics as

homophobia, hate crimes, and environmental degradation. "Against Nature," for example, pokes fun at some of the controversy surrounding the "nature or nurture" debate about the origins of homosexuality. On a similar note, "Billions Served" stands as an indictment of the "Death industry" (i.e., fast food). These poems seem to be less successful than the others in the collection, and they seem out of place, almost as if they were tacked on as an afterthought. But they do not weigh down what is an otherwise memorable collection. ▼

PERFORMANCE

Q men + Q music = 20 years



The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Stan Hill, celebrates their 20th Anniversary this Saturday, September 26, at 8 p.m. at Davies Symphony Hall. The gala event features the premiere performance of a newly commissioned work, titled simply *Q*. Tickets, \$10-50, are on sale at the Symphony Box Office, 864-6000, Chorus Tickets, 1-888-44S-FGMC, or at the Chorus Box Office, 400 Castro St. ▼

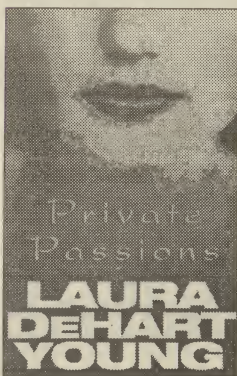
Creating havoc

by Deborah Peifer

Private Passions by Laura DeHart Young; Naiad, \$11.95

River Quay by Janet McClellan; Naiad, \$11.95

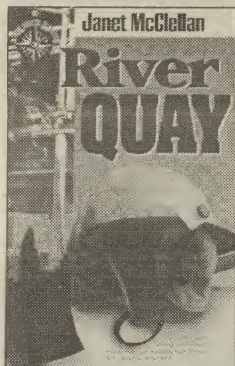
Laura DeHart Young's newest novel, *Private Passions*, is a dark look at lesbians who are battered and who batter, and the ways the lessons learned at the hands of a violent lover can create personal and professional havoc.



Sara Gray is an advertising executive who can juggle cranky clients, pushy personnel, and workday worries with ease and grace. Her co-workers wonder why she seems to run into many doors, however, because she does come into work bruised and bleeding frequently. Sara is out of the battering relationship, but she continues to pick partners who exhibit the same pathology. If that's not bad enough, she's been saddled with the inept brother-in-law of the firm's CEO, a sexist jerk who gives nepotism a bad name. His battering is verbal, not physical, but that doesn't make it any less threatening to Sara's well-being.

Young does a fine job of creating the outs and ins of working at a small advertising agency. Her characters, both office-workers and those in the real world, are carefully crafted. I especially liked the flashback scenes having to do with Sara's earlier relationship with a batterer. The scenes are frightening

and painfully realistic. We understand why Sara stays, and why hope can sometimes be the most dangerous emotion of all. *Private Passions* is a powerful read, entertaining and thought-provoking.

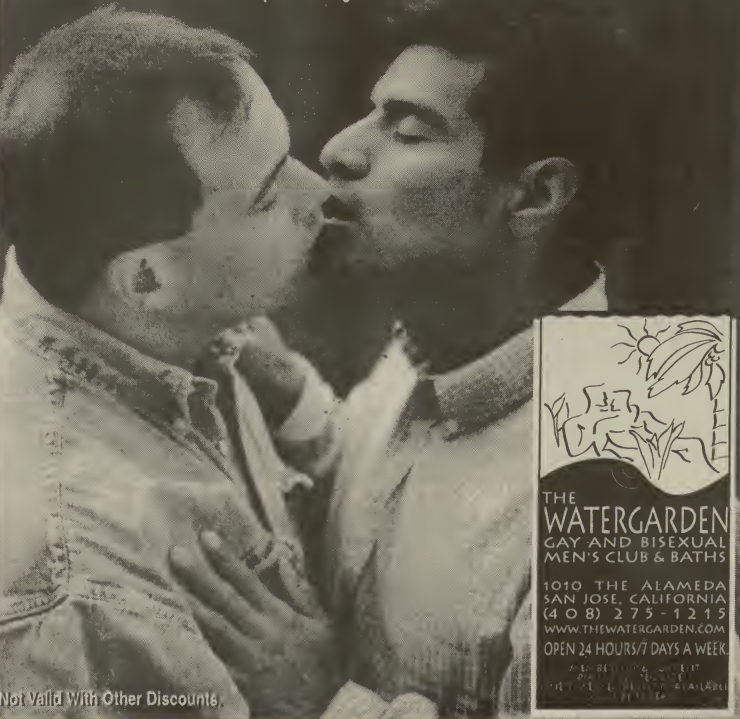


Provoked is how I felt all the way through *River Quay*, Janet McClellan's third Tru North mystery, and the weakest by far of the three. McClellan seemed to have a relationship novel to write, but she had to cram in that bogus mystery. The result is unsatisfying in every category.

Arson is the crime in *River Quay*, but when a body is found in a burned building, homicide detective Tru is called in to work with very cute arson investigator, C.B. Belpre. Tru is in a monogamous relationship, but her lover's being out of town seems to have the effect of stripping Tru of any and all inhibitions regarding extrarelational sex. Tru has flashes of guilt, but they dissipate before she really has time to notice them. We notice, however, and wonder just how it is that her commitment can't withstand a week away from her true love. There are brief references to Tru's feeling pressured to make a commitment, but not enough information for us to understand what the problem is. The mystery is given equally short shrift, and finally is of no interest at all. The novel ends with Tru and C.B. heading into the sunset together, so the dilemma with Tru's partner, Markie, who doesn't know there is one, is apparently being held over for the sequel. My hope is that the sequel will not be so disappointing. ▼

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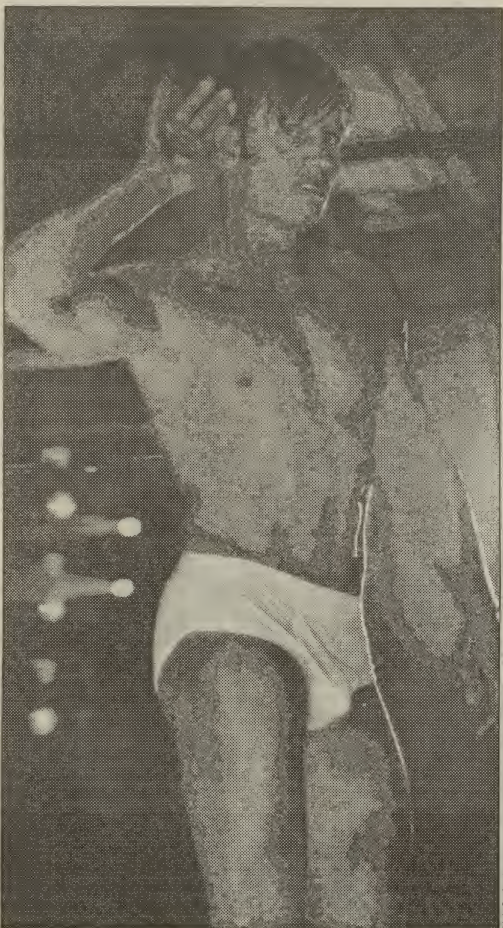


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Hunky physique on display at Macy's '98 Passport

Out There

◀ page 38

nothing but various varieties of form-revealing Calvin Klein underpants. Supermodel **Marcus Schenkenberg** and the other humpy physiques on display were holy visions of pumped-up, steroided, shaven, and waxed body-bods. We felt as if we had been transported, body and soul, to a **Tom of Finland** cartoon. This year's Passport events raised \$2 million for the fight against AIDS.

Worst-dressed remark

Straight people say the darnedest things dept.: From the self-consciously trendy free weekly *Metropolitan*: Chanteuse **Lavay Smith**, answering the question, "What was your worst style phase?" in a fashion-plate interview: "Punk was my worst style phase in the early 1980s. I didn't wear that too well. It was too dyky-looking and not very sexy."

But then, this is the very same rag in which "Film Picks" columnist **Richard von Busack** describes the new **John Waters** film *Pecker* with the capsule: "Pecker, a humble, homely hillbilly (**Edward Furlong**), is discovered by **Diane Arbus**-like photographers who want to exploit his 'look.' Um, Richard: it's *Pecker* who's the photographer; being from Baltimore doesn't necessarily make you a hillbilly; and **Edward Furlong** is far, far from homely. Someone please find that movie reviewer a clue.

Okay, we fess up — like **H.L. Mencken**, like **E.A. Poe**, we're from Baltimore, we're hillbillies, and we're big **Waters** fans from

way back. We used to see Mr. W catching a matinee at the Charles Theatre, an art-filmhouse, or making the scene with his entourage at the Atlantis bar, a charmingly unpretentious watering hole across the street from the prison in E. Baltimore, the type of establishment where the trade dances on the bar in their jockstraps. Little did we know **Waters** was there location-scouting: the Atlantis and its fleshly attractions play a key role in *Pecker*, only the bar has been rechristened *The Fudge Packer*. Remember, boys, there's only one house rule: no tea-bagging!

Burger king

In **David Ehrenstein**'s new Gay Hollywood tome *Open Secret*, writer **James Ellroy** rehashes the old story about **Robert Mitchum** hanging out with **Charles Laughton** and **Laughton**'s boyfriend in "'54, '55, when they're doing *Night of the Hunter*. It's a lunch break, and Mitchum pours ketchup on his dick and says, "Which one of you fags wants to eat this?" The way it got written up was with him being at a party throwing ketchup on himself and saying, "I'm a hamburger." It's not quite the same thing." Er, we get it: ketchup, yes; burger, no. Thanks for clearing that up, Jim.

Green Bay packin'

That nudie perennial *The Naturalist Gazette* reports that when **Governor Thompson** of Wisconsin recently vetoed more than 400 items from the state budget, the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* headlined the story, "Thompson's Penis Is a Sword." Except that the typesetter joined two words together, and tens of thousands of newspaper readers discovered that "Thompson's Penis a Sword."

tor **Michael Tilson Thomas**. MTT's father received occasional piano lessons from Gershwin. "He said, 'Teddy, look at the piano. You'll notice there are black notes and white notes. Just keep playing them, and you'll figure out the difference between them.'"

Today, MTT says, "There's not the slightest doubt in my mind that Gershwin would have redefined the whole musical language had he lived." The SFPALM exhibit includes all sorts of fascinating memorabilia, including the program for the Memorial Concert for Gershwin at the Hollywood Bowl in 1937, which featured such unlikely co-stars as **Otto Klemperer**, **George Jessel**, **Al Jolson**, **Fred Astaire** and **Lily Pons**.

When Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess* opened in New York, composer, music critic and closeted homosexual **Virgil Thomson** sniffed that the score was "at best a piquant but highly unsavory stirring-up-together of Israel, Africa, and the Gaelic Isles."

"S Wonderful continues through December 23 at SFPALM, 399 Grove St. Admission is free; for more information, call 255-4800.

Back to the bathhouse

We're enjoying the new **Bette Midler** album *Bathhouse Betty*, her first release on Warner Bros. after a few decades on the Atlantic label. While it's a real grab bag — she belts out everything from "Song Of Bernadette" to "Ukelele Lady" — the disc seems a return to her roots for the *Divine Miss M*, which include schmaltzy smutty shick and purely escapist numbers. "People need to be happy and have a ball," Miss Midler asserts in her media release. "Everything shouldn't be like so, you know, sweat-producing."

Bette also concedes: "This whole album has moments of great vulgarity, but also great yearning. I mean, isn't life like that?"

There she goes...

Goodbye, out-going Miss America **Kate Shindle**, we salute you! For a full year of your reign, you braved the ire of fundamentalist wackos and reactionary America by spreading the word about effective AIDS prevention. "I wouldn't have handled anything differently, especially with regards to the HIV/AIDS platform," she told the Associated Press.

She was the first Miss America we met in the flesh, for a function at Yerba Berba. If we remember correctly, she let our predecessor, Arts Editor Emeritus **Chris Culwell**, touch her tiara (it was in its special case), and it seemed to us that he got something of a special charge out of it.

We miss Miss Shindle already, since the new Miss America, formerly Miss Virginia, has already made a big deal in an interview about what a great woman **Elizabeth Dole** is, how much she admires her. You may remember that during her husband's Presidential campaign, Liddy Dole announced that she was divesting herself of all her Disney stock since Disney produced *Priest*, the critically-acclaimed film which featured a gay priest. So it looks like we've traded in Miss Enlightenment for Miss Dark Ages.

Finally, on a purely personal note, we want to wish our *Thing* a most happy 100th — we mean 40th — b'day. As per his request, the old boy will be known in this space as "Pepi" from now on. But just between us chickens, he'll always be *Thing* to us. ▼

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George Gershwin

Embraceable George

The **George Gershwin** Centennial means never having enough of the great American composer. "S Wonderful: A Celebration of George Gershwin" is a wonderful exhibit of Gershwini-ana now on display at the San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum (SFPALM), in which we learn such factoids as that the **Fred and Adele Astaire** vehicle *Funny Face*, for which Gershwin wrote the score, was originally called *Smarty*.

Another Gershwin musical, *Let 'Em Eat Cake*, includes the song "Union Square," with the line, "Down with **Boris Thomashefsky**!" **Boris** and **Bessie Thomashefsky**, founders of New York's Yiddish Theatre, were friends of Gershwin's parents, and grandparents of SFS Music Direc-

MUSIC

Tom Anderson's 'The Journey' Getting personal

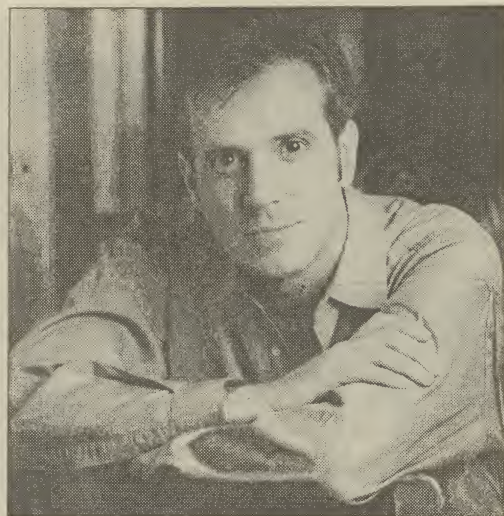
by Jim Van Buskirk

The angelic voice of Tom Anderson is immediately captivating on his new album, *The Journey*. The title track written by Julie Gold is a beautiful expression of "optimism, reflection, and hope." As the opening cut, it serves as an appropriate introduction to this welcome collection of beautiful songs.

Anderson's generous liner notes indicate that the songs he has chosen to include on this, his second CD, have a personal resonance for him. "Some are songs I've loved for a long time and never performed until now, some are old favorites, and others are brand new... they are part of me." And they quickly become part of the listener, as, seemingly effortlessly, he takes us on a memorable musical journey.

Seeing a local high school production of *Oklahoma* as a small child had a profound influence on Anderson, leading him to sing a gentle "People Will Say We're in Love." Other showtunes include what is being touted as his signature song, the soaringly emotional "Storybook" from the current Broadway hit *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and a rendition of "Necessity" from *Finian's Rainbow* to which he gives a surprising successful sassiness. Irving Berlin's haunting "Reaching for the Moon" was introduced by Bing Crosby in a 1931 film of the same name, starring Douglas Fairbanks.

As lilting as his voice is, Anderson's songwriting abilities are equally powerful. Of the disk's eleven cuts, Anderson has penned five. His effective storytelling abilities are evident in "Two Chairs" and "Everynight I Sleep with an Angel." The somewhat slight "Simple Little Tune" and "Words" are refreshing in their ability not to take themselves too seriously. Certainly one of the most poignant of his recent tunes is Anderson's "Yard Sale," also included on David Campbell's recent CD. The song was inspired by regular Saturday forays with his



Tom Anderson

friend Meg Mackay to check out the treasures of increasingly numerous yard sales.

Anderson lived in San Francisco for twelve years, where he appeared in *Beach Blanket Babylon*. Since moving to New York in 1991, he has played such prestigious gigs as Carnegie Hall, the Russian Tea Room, and Tavern on the Green. He has won two awards from the Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs

(MAC). His debut CD, *Far Away Places*, was nominated for a MAC award, and "Yard Sale" received the coveted MAC award for Song of the Year.

Anderson's seriousness and warmth are evident in his soulful, piercing eyes. Claiming to be obsessed with time, he closes this rich album with a sweet song of that name by Eric Woolfson and Alan Parsons, which ends with echoes of "forevermore." ▼

Accent on music

by Gregg Shapiro

Music's role as an international language is demonstrated on the albums *Aquamosh* (Capitol/Tomboa/Happy Fi) by Plastilina Mosh, *Halim* (Beggars Banquet) by Natacha Atlas, and Stereo Total's self-titled disc (Bobsled). Plastilina Mosh sings mostly in Spanish, Atlas sings in Arabic, and Stereo Total sing in Japanese, German, Italian, French, and even English. Plastilina Mosh's *Aquamosh* is particularly fascinating for the range of styles the duo explores over the course of the album's dozen tracks. From jazz ("Bananos Bar," "Ode To Mauricio Garces," "I've Got That Milton Pacheco Kinda Feeling") to rock ("Monster Truck," "Encendedor," "Pornoshop") to a hip-hop hybrid ("Nino Bomba," "Afroman," "Savage Sucker Boy," "Mr. P Mosh"), it's all done with a dash of seriousness and a smidgen of fun, resulting in a very bizarre, never boring album. Viva la NAFTA!

Brussels-born half-Jewish, half-Muslim (oy vey!) Natacha Atlas could do for Arabic music in the nineties what Ofra Haza did for Hebrew music in the eighties. Currently touring with Trans-Global Underground (appropriately enough), Atlas focused on her Arabic roots with *Halim*. A bellydancer in addition to a singer

and songwriter, Atlas makes music that is irresistible and difficult to listen to while sitting still. You want to move your arms about above your head, sway your hips, and eat everything on pita bread. Exotic highlights include "Moustahil," "Leyli," "Kidda," and the seductive semi-dub of "Sweeter Than Any Sweets," to name a few.

When talking about Stereo Total, I want to try to use points of reference without pigeonholing this wonderfully bizarre and entertaining band. Other bands come to mind, from Gruppo Sportivo to Komeda, but that wouldn't be doing justice to Stereo Total. Influences ranging from new wave Europop to pseudo-lounge, and quite a bit in between, make this album a blast that lasts. Stereo Total's uncommon taste in cover tunes (KC & The Sunshine Band's "Get Down Tonight," Salt-N-Pepa's "Push It," and Serge Gainsbourg's "Je suis venue dire que je m'en valse") combined with the unique perspective of their original material (especially on "LA, CA, USA," "C'est la mort," "Dactyle Rock," "Ushile sugata ga kilei," "Supergirl," and "Dilindam") make Stereo Total a total listening experience. ▼

Natacha Atlas plays the Justice League on September 29.

Plastilina Mosh plays Maritime Hall on October 29.

Ineffable loss

by Deborah Peifer

Endless Love by Lisa Shapiro; Naiad, \$11.95

What do you when the love of your life, your soulmate, your one and only, dies? Do you die along with her, emotionally at least, or do you find a way to continue? In her latest Naiad novel, Lisa Shapiro (*Sea to Shining Sea*) explores the dark side of finding and then losing your soulmate.

Andrea Stern is a writer whose gift is figuring out what her professors want and giving it to them, a skill that enables her to write at length without ever exposing what she really believes. When she agrees to tutor Ryan Mann, she assumes that all she'll do is share the tricks with this baby-dyke. Instead, she realizes that she and Ryan are destined to love each other forever. "Love is endless," Ryan tells her. "It won't fade or disappear. There's too much emo-

tion. The feeling's too strong." Andrea imagines that theirs is a love that will last on the physical plane, but when Ryan dies suddenly, only months after they first met, Andrea is left with an emptiness that threatens her very survival.

Shapiro does a fine job of establishing the spirituality of her characters without slowing down the plot or resorting to tedious lectures and explanations. The conversations between Andrea and Ryan ring painfully true, as each young woman tries to define the ineffable. Andrea's struggle to come back to the living after her bone-crushing loss is both touching and believable. The sideplots concerning Andrea's efforts to reconnect with various members of her family are handled deftly and leavened with humor. *Endless Love* is a tale of death and resurrection, of the courage involved in deciding to live through terrible pain and to risk loving again. I found it moving and very entertaining — not a bad combination. ▼

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◀ page 1

and prove to the world that this is the leather capital of the world.

Now in its 15th year, the Folsom Street Fair has dispensed thousands of dollars to worthy charities. The late Michael Valerio, who created this event, is probably hovering overhead to see his baby reach the 15 year mark. We are indeed flattered that New York's leather community has chosen to name their leather street fair Folsom Street East.

Nuns at the gates

Attendees at the fair will be greeted at the gates by members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, who will be collecting \$2 entry fees, but no one will be turned away for being short of cash. The funds collected will be put to good use: Last year, SMMILE (South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events) dispensed \$150,000 to worthy beneficiaries. This year organizers hope to exceed that amount.

And what do you get for your two bucks? Imagine dozens of crafts, food, and beverage booths, acres of bare skin, thousands of beautiful leather men and women, leather pets on leashes (four legged and two legged), more skin, calendar models in the flesh, erotic videos, shoe shine stands, tattoo booths, leather kids, entertainment stages, hot DJs, sweaty dancers, and first-rate entertainers. Enjoy it all!

The weather forecast looks good, so keep your fingers crossed. The warmer the temperature, the more skin you'll see. The odds favor the sun: never in 15 years has rain dampened the event.

Beyond the fair

No doubt you're aware that in addition to the fair proper, dozens



Two dudes from Minnesota (L) joined with Mr. Northern California Drummer Ray Tilton, displaying the new Fran Frisch Leather Pride tees available only at the Leather Zone.

of ancillary events will be taking place around the city during Leather Week. You'll find art shows, disco parties and leather events galore. SMMILE has published a stunning program with listings of all the events taking place. It would be impossible for me to include everything here, so get yours at your favorite bar, leather store, boutique, or other location.

On Friday night, SMMILE throws its first-ever press party, from 1900-2100 at the Powerhouse, spotlighting the men on the 1999 Bare Chest Calendar and all the Drummer & Drummer Boy contestants, plus every sash dude/dudette who makes it through the door!

An event of special note for both locals and visitors is the selection, on Saturday afternoon at the Russian Center (2450 Sutter @ Divisadero), of the 20th man to hold the International Mr. Drummer title.

(Many got to preview the competition yesterday at the Eagle, where a "basket auction" was held. This year the Drummer Boys had baskets to auction too! All baskets

were chock full of leather goods, tee shirts, travel tickets, hotel accommodations, and other great items.)

The theme for this year's competition is "Boot Camp," and the fun gets underway at 1500 on Saturday afternoon. And who are the contestants? You'll meet ten of them: Carl Baldwin, Mid-Atlantic Drummer; Steven Bayes, Gulf Coast Drummer; Herve Bernard, Mr. Europe Drummer; Michael Cruz, Florida Drummer; Mike Ferguson, Great Plains Drummer; Jim Maciel, New England Drummer; Steve Pierce, So. California Drummer; Tom Stice, Southeast Drummer; Ray Tilton, Northern California Drummer; and Johann Villar, Great Lakes Drummer.

You'll also be introduced to the six Drummer Boy contestants: Boy Erik, Pacific Northwest; Boy Gregory, Southeast; Boy Kirk, Great Lakes; Boy Matthew, Florida; Boy Nicholas, Northern California; and Boy Ryan, Mid-Atlantic. The Mr. Drummer contestants vote for the Drummer Boy. They also vote for one of their own to receive the Golden Whip (brotherhood). Tally masters Tim Wong and George Carreras will

next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, September 24

Fetish & Fantasy Ball at Club Townsend, \$12 advance, \$15/door. Always a fabulous blast. A benefit for AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF).

Leather Daddy's Art Auction at the Eagle, 2000, lots of great art sold to benefit for AEF.

The Sling's "cigar party" at 926 Natoma. Doors open 2200. Only \$12 with soft drinks and all necessary supplies furnished.

Real Underwear party at the Powerhouse, at 2100. Full clothes check and a "best butt" contest.

Friday, September 25

SMMILE's "official" press party at the Powerhouse, 1900-2100, featuring BC calendar guys, title holders, the press, YOU and your guests.

Link, the dance party by Jito Presents, at 177 Townsend, 2200 until 0400 tomorrow. \$15 advance, \$20 door. Party #1 of 3.

Uniform mavens at the Loading Dock, 1930 to 2100, for the BLUF (britches, leather, uniform fancub) party. Mandatory full dress leather or uniforms will admit you. Check: www.bluf.com

Leather erotic artist LEON holds open house at his studio (4623 18th St), noon to 1600, today and tomorrow. Leon is one of America's top male erotic artists.

Saturday, September 26:

Intl. Mr. Drummer and Boys competition, Russian Center, at 1500. \$25 tickets available at door. Queen Cougar and Brian Dawson will be the emcees. Pre-contest party @ Powerhouse, at 1300; Victory party @ Daddy's immediately following the contest.

The 15 Association's monthly play party. Doors open at 2100. \$15, BYOB; other supplies furnished. Guests must be accompanied by members. Call 673-0452.

SF Exiles host leatherwomen's meet & greet @ Chat House (138 - 9th St), with free SM videos, snacks, beverages. Call 487-5170 for info.

Magnitude, the Black Party, at The Galleria (see column). This is Jito Presents dance party #2 of 3.

Futura, Latin dance party, at 174 King St. Possibly electing a Mr. Latino Leather there tonight.

Sunday, September 27

The action begins at 0400 in the morning today at Aftershock, the dance party, at 715 Harrison until 1100. \$20 advance, \$25 door This is Jito Presents party #3 of 3.

It will be leather world with close to 400,000 people on Folsom St. between 1100 and 1800. Pray for sunshine! Check out everything and everybody. Celebrate, freak freely, meet old and new friends. Enjoy the fair!

Blow Buddies, a special event party at 933 Harrison; doors open at 1600, the "official" men's play space. Call 863-HEAD.

Thursday, October 1

Big Basket contest at The Edge, at 2200, with Danny Williams, and much bulging pulchritude. All this plus The Old Bag. Size queens especially welcome!

The San Diego 10th Annual Rodeo at the Del-Mar Fairgrounds. Host hotel is Marriott Mission Valley Hotel, site of the Boots & Briefs contest at Square dancing parties, AIDS Walk. Need more info? Call (619) 298-4708 or send questions to GSGRASAN@aol.com.

Weekend, October 2-4

Golden Gate Guards MC weekend run to Camp Mendocino. Theme: "Return to Olympus" (bring your toga!). Pick up an app. or find out more by clicking on ggguard@slip.net.

Sunday, October 4

Castro Street Fair, 1100-1600. More madness in the Disastro — if you survived Folsom!

POLKSTRASSE

Major advice re: minors

by Sweet Lips

A few words of advice to my fellow bartenders: Several bars in our fair city have now been charged with serving a minor. I suggest that, along with checking I.D., you ask the person in question if he or she is under 21 years old *before* serving them. By law, decoys have to answer truthfully and admit they're underage. This strategy works, because the little buggers are always wired for all conversation — just like Linda Tripp! A word to the wise should be sufficient. Don't jeopardize your jobs and businesses.

Don't forget to join the guys and gals this Sunday, September 27, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the always terrific annual Folsom Street Fair. I'll be there just to see Mark Campanella of Budweiser work his beer booth. Lance

Cartwright and Mame of Portland will be there, too.

Thank you, thank you, all of my fans and readers who attended the auction and fundraiser at The Giraffe a few weeks ago — it sure helped out in a bad time. Lovin' you all from here.

Social grace notes: Mark your calendars, boys, Thursday, Oct. 1 is Tacky Hacky's birthday.

Empress Tiger Lily of Alaska has moved to Boca Raton, Florida, and she

just loves the change in climate. That personable Michael Valdez does the 6 a.m.-Noon shift, Fri.-Tues. at the Cinch Saloon, so drop by and say hi.

The "QT II" has some great strippers strutting their stuff at night — they're really, truly

hunks — so drop in and have some salacious fun. But remember, boys: no tea-bagging!

She's baaack! Remember, Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rendezvous, is the Welcome Home party for Dick Deemer catered by Dennis ("Thyme and Again") Tyler.

The New Rick's Gold Room always seems to have a great crowd, especially when Empress Maxine is working.

The Rendezvous' David Kapp sure knows how to throw a 49ers party! Sunday, Sept. 27, the Niners face the Atlanta Falcons, starting time 1:15 p.m. (kegger on tap from 12-4 p.m.) We love it when those big, beefy men in those tight football pants bend over and play huddle! ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

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have the results within minutes of the last voting segment, thanks to a super computer system.

I do not envy the judges their task. They'll have tough decisions to make, but it should be a fabulous event. The \$25 general admission tickets are still available at Daddy's, Mr. S Leather, A Taste of Leather, Image Leather, Leather Zone, Loading Dock and the Powerhouse. A victory party will be held at Daddy's immediately following the contest. Good luck to all! Hope to see you there and at all the other events surrounding this wonderful week in leather!

Dance your booty off

If you're into leather dance parties, Jito Presents has cornered the market on them with a three-pronged leather-oriented party blitz beginning with Link at 177 Townsend on Friday night, from 2100 to 0400 hours the next morning (\$15 advance/\$20 door). On Saturday, it's Magnitude, the "official" black party at The Galleria, from 2200 to 0500 the next morning (\$35 advance/\$40 door). Then at the ugly hour of 0400 on Sunday, it's Aftershock at 715 Harrison, lasting until 1100, just as the Folsom Street Fair gets underway (\$20 advance/\$25 door). VIP tickets for all three events are \$100, with scads of "extras" including top circuit party DJs. Tickets are available at Body, Undercover, Mainline Gifts, Paulo's Juice and A Taste of Leather, or click on www.jito.com.

Leather walk

Last Sunday, Sep. 20, Leather Pride Week in San Francisco kicked off with the Leather Pride Walk from Daddy's in the Castro to the Eagle south of Market, via the Powerhouse. An enthusiastic group gathered almost \$4,000 in pledges for the AIDS Emergency Fund, and Donna Sachet and Brian Benamati serenaded the group as they wound their way through the city. It was a jovial group, and the paparazzi were out in full force. Good show, all! It was an inspired and inspiring way to kick off Leather Pride Week!

When the marchers arrived at the Eagle, 1999 Bare Chest Calendar guys and the volunteers were ready for the huge crowd that materialized. Lenny Broberg, with

Martyn Jones as "Vanna," did a splendid job auctioning off six of the 12 calendar men for dinner dates and other goodies. The crowd was spirited and generous and the event raised some \$3,375 for the AEF.

Lots of people deserve thanks for helping out with both these

benefits, but space does not permit. Just know that without them, none of it could have happened!

So — here we are at that long awaited moment, S.F. Leather Pride Week. Be kind and helpful to all our visitors. Have a wonderful weekend. Play hard — and, of course, play safe! ▼

Thursday
Friday
Saturday

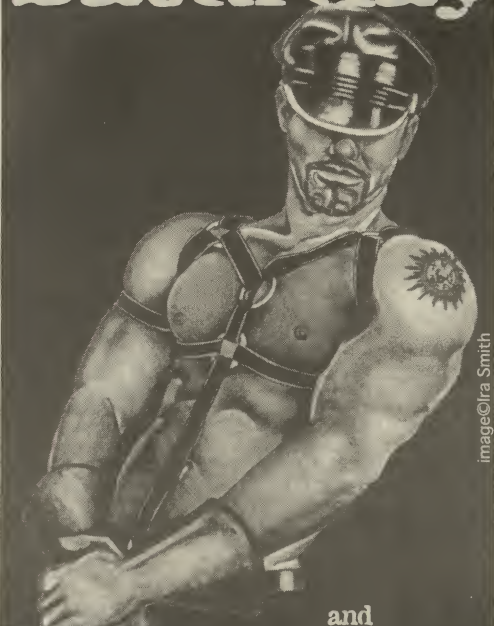


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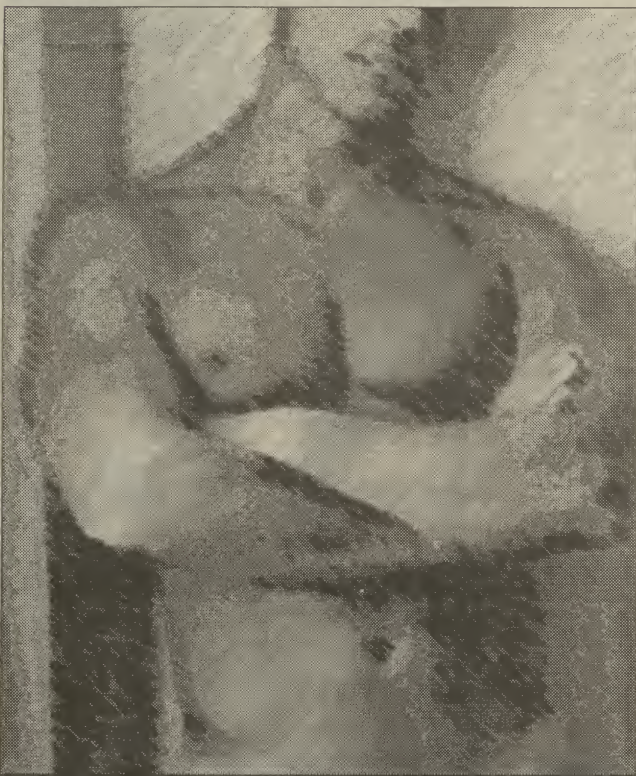


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PARTING GLANCES

Fri 8/14 3:40pm 18th St.
You driving east as I walked west. You made U-turn and followed me home. Sat on my face and unloaded on my chest. Drive back for more. Call... ☎ 3900

Spinelli Castro Me: Interested..
You, handsome Asian professional waiting for bus (with big guy boyfriend). You kept looking back. Please leave name, daytime #. ☎ 3901

Brad, Sun8/17 J stop Church/Mkt
The long wait for the train was made less torturous by your presence. You left before we could exchange numbers. Did I sense some chemistry? Call me Ra... ☎ 3902

Thrifty-Diamond Hts. 8-20evening
Me: pharmacy 5'5", glasses, blue Tommy Hilfiger jacket. You: shorter, penny-loafers, white shirt, beautiful eyes! Asked "if I was in line?" You're so hot, I was speechless. ☎ 3903

Tom from Loading Dock
You move me!!! Louis... ☎ 3904

Max from Nae Valley@Steamwks 8/22
Hey Max! Lost you after the shower. You invited me to spend the night. Can't get you out of my mind. Me: Tall, blonde, pig-bottom. Please call Bill... ☎ 3905

Mark-Virgin Records 8/21
You were buying CD's to DJ a friends party. I asked for something soulful. You recommended Stella. Care to share the groove? James... ☎ 3906

Rich @ Lake Merritt Thurs 8/13
I asked you about the Gay Games. We walked together awhile. Want to see you again. Please call... ☎ 3907

Foxglove Farm Rt 116 Fri 8/21
You: Goodlooking lean, blue truck. Me, goodlooking, blue BMW. You said you can't grow tomatoes too shady. You left empty handed. Wish you'd left with me. Call... ☎ 3908

Rockridge Romeo - 8pm Wed 9/2
Both in shorts w/backpacks, U-manoon levis. Me w/bike I dropped notebook looking 4U at same place same time. ☎ 4103

Bob FX Steamworks June
Ross, Aust., needs your gorgeous kisses after mid-Sept. ☎ 4000

Jumpin Java 8/26
6:00 pm you blue T-shirt and shorts. Me: jeans and maroon shirt. Let's talk. ☎ 4001

Hawaii 4th of July
Was party of 3 SF guys that met you three guys from SF there. Want to keep in touch. ☎ 4002

Daryl A. from PA
Lost contact- Please call Spike. ☎ 4003

Sweet Potato
Sept. 8, 1996 we met in the Central YMCA steamroom and then had lunch on 6th st. Still thinking about you after all that time, I want more. Barry Bob. ☎ 4004

Oakland Lake Merritt Aug 27
You: Red shirt & shorts, jogging around lake. Me: Grey T-shirt & jeans. Both looked back (caught me admiring your butt!) Coffee and talk? ☎ 4005

8/30 blockbuster Video Church St
Me: Blue shirt, white shorts, dark hair, blue eyes. You: Tall, handsome. Several parting glances- I was ahead of you in line. Call if interested. Peter. ☎ 4006

Marc Castro St. Thurs 8/27/98
7:15, your sling is a fate worse than death, yet my heart still skips a beat when I think of you, please call me. ☎ 4007

Power Fuck @ Powerhouse!!
Fri. 8/21. Had great time with you. You kept repeating what a hot fuck I was, said you could go on all night. I missed the hint. Let's do it!!! ☎ 4008

John of Oakland?
You called my name: Fantasy/Nudity/Eroticism. Unfortunately, before I could write down your #, I deleted the message, accidentally, please call me again, if you're still interested. ☎ 4009

L Train Sept. 1, 6pm
You Asian male w/2 friends got on at Powell station. Me white male w/brown sweater and black pants got off at Civic Center and smiled at you. Left. Call & leave your #. ☎ 4100

Safeway/Church Sun 9/6 7pm
Ross, Aust., needs your gorgeous kisses after mid-Sept. ☎ 4000

Joey from San Jose
We met at Eros in August. We both are Asian. Would like to do it again. Please call. ☎ 4102

Falettis on Fulton Labor Day
You: Maroon top, caterpillar boots. Me: black tank, plaid shorts. caught your eye a couple of times. Would love to meet you. Pls. Call. ☎ 4200

Jesse @ Badlands Sept 6 Kurt
We spoke about NYU, working out. Both new to Northern Calif. I had to drive to San Jose. Number exchange? Call me. ☎ 4201

Justin Delossario where are you?
Miss you terribly, sorry for misunderstanding. Life is very good only thing missing is you. Call Andrew. ☎ 4202

Kissing squirrel's
Cute guy with bright red hair, bought 'em from guy with purple, said you'd get lot a dates. Feel inspired? Wanna know your name & where you put em. ☎ 4203

U: on bike Me: red car
9/3-7:45 16th @ Bryant, your tank top shorts, hot body & amazing smile blew me away. Should've pulled over. Wanna hook up? ☎ 4204

James M. From Vacaville
We met at Fife's on 8/29. I acted like a fool and I let you go. Please give me a 2nd chance. James C. from Sebastopol. ☎ 4205

Bart train Montg. Stn Sat 9/5/98
Sat facing you on Bart as you drank your water. You got off on Montg. stop. You: tall, blonde hair, blue shorts, back pack. Me: Blue cap grey t-shirt shorts. Call!! ☎ 4206

Jr's under 21 side near Cafe
Sept 4th 11:2 pm/am white cap red plaid overshirt, tight black shirt beneath, great smile, dk hair. Me: Black/white clothes. Magnetic eyes, just to shy. ☎ 4207

Matt- AAA Tow Help Sun 6th 9ers
Helped with Merc Com after niner game friendly and want to thank you personally. Let's talk!! ☎ 4210

Met @ Church St. Safeway 9/11
We laughed about your 42oz soda cup. You watched me walk away. I returned shortly thereafter, you were gone. I wish to see you again! ☎ 4208

Dore Alley St. Fair U mesh shorts
Nothing underneath, very handsome, great eyes & melting smile. Me: mirrored sunglasses w/chrome b liners, cod piece. Said u liked the glasses. Would love to be bad w/you. Call. ☎ 4209

Affixed eyes @ Cafe Flore Wed 9/9 @ 3:30pm
Red pants, white button down short green bag, cell phone, dark short hair, young/cute near Kitchen. Me To left @ far window. Cute/meet ?! ☎ 4211

Thanks "Rob" Erotic/Magnificent Kiss/Make out dance @ the Cafe
Sept 5th 1:30am red short sleeve outer/white shirt inner. Me: town/shirt. Hope U remember, UR great! Very attractive. Meet again? ☎ 4212

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Tricks are for kids
Want some serious fun? High energy Futura party boy looking for someone who can keep up with me and hold my own. Me: 29 GLM 6', goatee. Can you handle me? ☎ 3909

HIV+ Concord Antioch Top wanted
Black, brown or deep tan with mustache preferred. I'm an HIV+ bottom, 36, 6', 185, b/br, mustache smoker. Looking for local pittsburgh single guy for dating. ☎ 3911

Neg GWM 40's ISO neg GWM Top
30-50 who enjoys motorcycling, bicycling, travel, weekends at the cabin and building a life that's full, while growing in a LTR! Call-let's talk. ☎ 3912

Handsome GW all-American man
6', 185lbs, nice athletic build.40, honest sense of humor, masculine HIV-. Looking for cute/goodlooking G/B/Straight AM (18-28) with similar characteristics for dating/friendship. ☎ 3913

Pussy Boy- Punk Masochist
Age 21-35, with decent body, into verbal and physical abuse, bondage, control sought by GWM, 54, 5'7", 145lbs, NS HIV-, masculine top. ☎ 3914

Quality Pos E.B. man seeks man
Attractive, clean-cut, Italian-Russian, 38, 5'10", 165#, sensual top HIV+, athletic, enjoys outdoors, looking, home, dog- seeks bottom man into healthy lifestyle, dating & more. ☎ 3915

Asian Babe
Where are all the good-looking, genuinely nice guys? Here's one. Masculine, monogamous, young PGAM seeking similar masculine handsome PGWM under 37 for dating. Serious LTR poss. ☎ 3916

Toned runner type, surfer look
Boysish, smooth, vry goodlooking GWM, 37,5'10, b/br, HIV- bottom. ISO in-shape tops 30-45, any race musc/hairy A +. Open to possibilities from LTR to just (safe) fun. No sub. abuse, dishonesty. ☎ 3917

Tall slender versatile
Vanilla satisfaction, 53, HIV-, seeks kind-hearted chocolate comfort for instant gratification or long slow bake. ☎ 3918

Nice guy seeks same
Nice looking young active 50ish GWM bright successful, romantic & fun NS HIV- 5'8" 165 clean shaven & clean cuts seeks quality younger GWM. Have a heart, brain & a smile. ☎ 3920

Searching for sugar \$S Daddy
SouthBay, attractive, hairy, hispanic, 41, 5'8", 140, into fitness, dancing, especially c/w, romancing seeking mature, responsible, wealthy, handsome, sexy, HIV-, nonsmoker. Will do errands, chores, and nude housekeeping. ☎ 4036

Attractive latino
Goodlooking Latino 33yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 4037

65 retired for ?
GWM 65 6'2" 190 retired/travels seeks GM under 50 for friendship and hopefully much more. ☎ 3919

Positively Alive
WM 34 HIV+, healthy, attractive, passionate, playful, energetic, likes tennis, movies, dancing, drumming, camping, nature, live music. Looking for HIV+ black, white, latin, top. Masculine, healthy, loving, sincere, friendship, romance. ☎ 4038

Nature
I live in a small cabin in the forest. Let's journey together. Not looking for sex buddy, N/D N/A. ☎ 4117

Intimacy, friends, sex
GWM, 30, 5'9", 165lbs, looking for other HIV+ GWM. ☎ 4039

Like sports & the Opera/Symph?
So do I. GWM, 38, 5'10", 180#, looking for other professional, financially secure, GM, 25-45, HIV- who also enjoys good college Football. Tristan and Isolde, staying fit, dressing well. ☎ 4040

Dad Seeking Son for LTR
Handsome, masculine, GWM, 6', 188#, HIV-, clean-cut, buzzed dad in East Bay sincerely seeking masculine, clean-cut, HIV- GWM, 25-35, for active, caring LTR! Ready to leave SF yet? Call me! ☎ 4041

Looking for Long Term Lover
Black male 52, 5'9", 170lbs, wants LTR with a manly looking, stocky, well-built, HIV- only, single white male 45-75. Living 60 miles of Oakland. ☎ 4042

Hand In Hand: Under the Stars
Romantic SGWM, 6', 180lbs, very goodlooking, dynamic, kind, sensual; seeks other goodlooking SGWM, 24-40yo, full of personality. Dating: Goal, LTR. Dark hair, A +. Be: Optimistic and up-beat! ☎ 4043

Very Tattooed Top/Owner Wanted
By very masculine, muscular, cool, submissive GWM seeking loving, romantic, monogamous LTR and heavy bondage/SM/Kink. I'm 5'7", 160, 42, buzzed/goateed, healthy HIV+. You're similar/bigger. 36-48, aggressive, serious! ☎ 4104

Wanted: Big/Masc. Top 4 LTR
This 6ft. 195lb. 32yo hairy in-shape HIV+ bottom shaved/goatee seeks manly, big (min:6' 200#) in-shape, hung top for poss. monog. LTR. Not into scene. No drugs. ☎ 4105

5 Good Reasons to Call Me
1. Romance. 2. Adventure. 3. Sharing. 4. Friendship. 5. Fun. Now call this attractive, young 59, healthy, nicely hung, 6' versatile buddy. ☎ 4106

Brown Man seeks Friends
I'm 42 170 HIV-. I'm into music gardening mountains maning on spiritual path into very simple living. ☎ 4107

Man To Man
Masculine, clean-cut, healthy and weight prop. guy who is stable and self sufficient, seeks same only, 30-60 for romantic dinners, intimate moments, dating and possible LTR. ☎ 4108

Relationship Seeker
East Indian 32, 5'11", 175lbs, dark eyes/hair, good looking ISO relationship oriented male, 25-38 for dating, romance, dinner, movies leading into LTR. ☎ 4109

Let's Do It!
Daddy Blond, blue, 5'11", 165, outgoing, fun, clean-cut, Hot-Boy. If you are 19-33 clean-cut, fun, hot stud. I like Italian, English, ect. For friendship and more. Call me. ☎ 4110

Passion for Travel Opera Theatre
6'2", Blond GWM seeks GWM partner for romantic dinners, travel, opera and music/theatre. ☎ 4111

Stable GWM Seeks LM
26yo GWM seeks LM for LTR. I am a romantic attractive WM, who has a great career, beautiful home and needs a lover to complete the package. ☎ 4112

Not Seeking Perfection
Looking for something more real. You: 35-45, HIV-, 5'10" or taller, WH/AM, sincere & honest. Me: 40, 5'9", 175lbs, GWM, like gardening, theatre; Xcint cook with a lot of love to give. ☎ 4113

Ready For You
WM, late 40s, trim, nice looking, very oral seeking man, late 50s to 60s, clean, trim, HIV- for hot sessions. Your place, no bottoms please. ☎ 4114

Hairy Butt Showoff
I'm a nasty top in my 40s in good shape. Like getting serviced by older men a teacher, coach, Dad, use a mouth, uniforms suits A+. ☎ 4115

Gay Artists Wanted!
I am seeking other gay artists to get together to discuss art, life, and other things. Let me hear from you. ☎ 4116

Japanese Lover wanted by GWM
You embody traditional Japanese culture, respect, honor, ect., but have a mind & heart of your own. Into sports & handsome. Me: 34yo artist, love all music, quiet times, culture, 5'6" 165#. ☎ 4231

HIV+ Eastbay Top wanted
Black, brown or dark tan preferred, with mustache! HIV+ bottom, 36, 6ft, 185, blonde/blue seeks 35+ brown boyfriend to playhouse in Pittsburgh- Capricorn, Cancer or virgo preferred. ☎ 4214

HIV+ 5'9" 165# Bk
While no longer thirty maintaining a good physical appearance through diet and exercising is important to me. I am a blue collar worker, part time student working on a BA. ☎ 4215

White/Latin mix Seeks boyfriend
Seeking white or latin male. I'm 5'10", 28, 180, HIV+, fun, discreet, hairy chest, decent looking. You are hung big discreet, easygoing personality smoker friendly. Spanish speaking a +. ☎ 4216

I need you
Asian young man new in San Jose looking for friend. I am open 18-35 HIV- must return all call to find one in San Jose. ☎ 4217

Stiff Ringed Meat Stikn Str8
Up in thick bush of musky brown pubic hair. Root milk it 4 hrs of hold-off & lotsa big, cumy bangs. VGL hry, 6' 160# Buck, 47, cut ISO freq instat milkings. WM, XUSN, buzz60t, ho-moaner ISO LTR. ☎ 4218

Tweedy Englishman
He is charming, witty, bossy. He likes a boy anxious to please. Must have a funnial cock. Up/High Alt. Be obsequious pretty boy. ☎ 4219

If You Want you Can Have
Caring, thoughtful, BM prof. 40s looking for LTR with experienced WM bottom who's physically emotionally available as I am on weekly sessions a monogamous union. Pls be 45-55, clean shaven and under 6' med heavy set ok. ☎ 4220

Beautiful to my Eyes!!
Mature, sophisticated, independent, slender any age, race, height, variety of interest. Sensuous massages to spontaneous explosions, mutual masturbation, oral more if chemistry right. GWM 60, 6', 165#, healthy silver hair, cleanshaven, smooth natural body. ☎ 4221

Loved To Be Fucked
Front and back by Asian, Latin and Black men on weekly sessions-short or long time, 7" or more. Me: GWM 6' 165# smooth mouth and bottom. Yours. ☎ 4223

Into my Arms Hand N Hand
Prof WM, semi-retired prof. Seeks a healthy BB no recip required. ☎ 4225

New to San Francisco
Big blond hopeless romantic 27yo is looking for honest, funny and sincere man, 25-35, any race! ☎ 4226

Open to LTR/Dating
Adventurous, active 58yo, affectionate lusty, arts music outdoors ISO playful, humorous, NS, ND, self reflective, open, versatile, healthy counterpart, live alive! ☎ 4229

GWM 62 In Shape
5'8", 165, PH.D HIV-, fin sec, well endowed versatile top out of LTR ISO honest loving monog GWM 40-55 in shape HIV-, NS, ND, fin sec. Enjoy arts, nature, travel, intimacy. ☎ 4228

Masochist Sks Sadistic Lover
Me: 31, blonde, fiercely independent and unconventional; professional; deeply submissive and masochistic at play only; intuitive; loyal. Are you: sincere; understanding; into outdoor activities; herb/aroma tolerant; Asian; under 40? ☎ 4229

Masculine Hairy Kink
Hairy fit HIV+ 25 ISO hairy fit 40+. Not motivated by money, greed, status or materialism. Into Sm/BD, leather, kink, tattoos and piercings. Wants relationship not sex date. ☎ 4230

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 6'2", 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance, and quiet times. Seeks another HIV-, extremely well-hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 4231

Scat Buddies: Masc. WM 36
Looking for other raunchy-masculine men who want to explore safe scat action & other fantasies. ☎ 3910

Oral sex companions
GWM, 50s, 5'10", dark brown hair 150# who loves to suck cock wants trim HIV- men under 50. If you have friends who want to watch a cock-sucker call me. ☎ 3928

Friendly Latino love to fuck
GWM 50yo HIV- N/D NS. If you're between 30 & 50yo. I like to suck your cock and get fucked & suck balls, watch video's. Please call. ☎ 3929

GWM seeks GWM Top
5'10", 160lbs, 43, Blonde, HIV+, seeking versatile individual for sex, friendship, possible LTR. Let's live a little! ☎ 3931

I like it wet
Handsome BM 6'2", 170lbs, 38, hung, I like it wet and natural & I'm into underwear. ☎ 3932

Desert endurance/Everhard Top!
Total topman B! DWM 45, can't get enough seeking hungry insatiable oral expert for marathons! Visit me in Southern California high desert! Possible ongoing relationship. Call Mac. ☎ 3993

Dad needs bottom boy to..
Spank and screw. Me: attract. GWM, 48, 6'5", 250, husky build brown hair, moustache, hairy/chest/stomach. You: attract. GM (white, latin, asian), 18-35, slim, smooth, moderate body-hair, nice buns. ☎ 3934

Experienced masseurs or massage students who enjoy giving firm long full body massages. Wanted by attractive, in-shape, smooth asian guy. I enjoy having every part of my nude body massaged. Buns, chest, legs, cock and balls, nipples. ☎ 3935

In and out on the Island
Plain looking but hung Alameda top seeks a tall, husky guy who can take 8, front or back. Blonde, Hispanic, over 40, moustache a plus. Fast but intense. ☎ 3936

HIV + 5'9" 165# Bk
I try to be a warm loving considerate & concerned person. While I longer 30 maintaining a good physical appearance through diet and exercising is important to me. If you think likewise maybe we should meet! ☎ 3937

Muscle bound for muscle cum
Deep oral service, muscle worship for white dark hair HIV- bodybuilders, 21-45, unpretentious. Big legs peck better than cocksiz. I'm 30's, average build, fit, blond, goatee, good looking. ☎ 3938

U B hot 18-35 WM full of cum
Attractive HIV- WM, 38, 6'1", 190#, wants you naked. Will suck you to edge for hours, eat sweet clean butt. Video's, massage, kick back relax, get done. ☎ 3939

Asian/Latino facesitter wanted
By gldk GWM top, 48, in LTR for discrete affair. Into deep rimming & hole cleaning. Must be HIV-. You: 40/50's, submissive, short. SF only, your place. ☎ 3940

Asian Guys Read This!
Seeking a nice Asian man under 35 who likes to kick back and get sucked off. Hot mouth and throat. Come on shoot your load! Same day or night call me. ☎ 4010

Loveasbuddy.....
If your dark skinned, smooth, h/wt proportionate, oral, love being rocked and stirred by a light skinned, dark n hairy, 5'10", 140lbs, oral, uncult top man. Call me. ☎ 4011

Muscles & Bears
WM, couple. Husky hairy bear & muscle BB, (5'9", 225, 6', 220) mass, (43-48) ISO other big men for friendship and play. Husky & hairy A +. ☎ 4012

Service My Hot Cock!
8' cut beauty on GD/LK GWM daddy 46, 5'9", 160#, slim, drk hair, must., verbal, likes to watch you snv., me long & slow, keep me on the edge. You: 30-40s, healthy, sane, endurance, CS. ☎ 4013

Dr. Master 67 Requires Slave
18-45 to serve & service relationship & transportation required HIV- bondage, discipline, scat, spanking, humiliation, stuffed dick, nipples, smooth hard body, master 6'1" 160#, demanding & horny, are you man enough? ☎ 4014

World Class Cocksucker/ing!
Recent best-in-shows Paris/Berlin/Rome/Rio/Tokyo, not to mention (pardon the expression) Bangkok. Now Bay Area by appt. only in exchange for big loads only. No Kidding! ☎ 4015

Big Dick Seeks Massage
GWM, 43, tall, slim with huge whacker seeks erotic massage. Age, looks, not important! Good massage is. ☎ 4016

Wanted Thick Dicks
Goodlooking WM (41yo 220lbs) looking for guys with thick dicks, (length not important but A+). ☎ 4017

Only a Dog Loves a Bone
My big Black Oakland bone needs to be buried quickly, deeply and often. You're a masculine expert with a moustache only. Calls returned 7am M-F. ☎ 4018

Yellow + Brown
Submissive bodybuilder seeks aggressive tops to feed me. Verbal abuse encouraged. Make me beg for it! ☎ 4019

Driving Naked
Bare butts in bucket seats. Hot exhibitionists drive with hard cocks, bare ass and seat belts. Nude erect & wild. Hot daring showoffs only! Get naked and drive! ☎ 4020

Small Sexy WM Seeks Big WM Top
Slender, attractive, inexperienced biWM, 28, fantasizes about pleasing tall, fit, WM top with big cock who loves having smaller WM with smooth, sexy little butt please, service and submit. ☎ 4021

Empty Your Balls
Very hot Italian bottom, 45, 6', 175#, ms/goatee. ISO: Studs who wanna get off. Castro sex 12-5am. ☎ 4022

Sit On My Face
Well built top, hung big needs well built Mature (20s-30s) with big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 4023

2 Tops ISO Submissive Bottom
We: Wm, 5'9", 160, bl/bl, 7" uncult. BM, 6ft, 175, shaved head, goatee, 7.5 cul. Both 34 and in shape. You: Nasty, 18-35, sex toy, with hot ass and mouth. ☎ 4024

Oral Bk Bot Sks Top or Dom Top
Verbal a plus. Avail in eve & some weekends. ☎ 4025

Dirty Talk/Jack Off Buddy Fun
Partner seeking late nite fun, your place. Into intense phallic worship, lengthy sessions. Age, size, race, looks, unimportant. ☎ 4025

Attn: JO Exhibitionists
GWM, 32, seeks other hard cock masturbation exhibitionists. Public places, windows, park car mirrors, showers, groups. Hard dick. Hot exposed men! ☎ 4026

Need Pedal Boat Partner
Just moved from Manhattan, I love Slow Lake but need someone to help me paddle. Fil. funny, publishing experience, early 40s top, I can talk about anything but prefer listening. ☎ 4027

Palo Alto 39yo Asian Cock
Sucker UB under 45yo 7" or more, no reciprocation. Prefer morning to noon. Have car will travel to your place. ☎ 4028

Master of Hedonism - It Is Time
Man to man sex, pleasure, love. A new society is coming. Your destiny and ours has arrived. Hail new Rome. See Baytimes Personal ad - Empire of men. ☎ 4029

Ball Worship
My 2 huge low hangers are waiting for your hot mouth & tongue. Me: Attractive, Wm, 48, 6'5", 250, football player build, brown hair/moustache, hairy chest & stomach. You: Attract., GM, slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair. ☎ 4030

Hairy WM Toy for Asian Boy
GWM thick hairy chest, moustache, HIV-, 51, 5'10", 170lbs, seeks wrestling and struggle for oral top scenes with Asians 20s to 45. Top me if you can! ☎ 4032

Need a Companion For Dancing?
Weekend trips, music concerts, or just hanging out with the tickets on me if you're young enough (under 30) and hungry enough (over 9"). I'm a 45yo built versatile GBM. ☎ 4033

Sonoma Co Daddy
Wants to be dominated by cute, slender boy, 18-35. Flaunt it, tease me, make me beg, then sit on my face, fuck my mouth. ☎ 4132

Early Morning Delight
SF, handsome stud WM HIV-, 35, 6', 170#, hairy chest, in shape, delivers oral service seek younger cute HIV-, WM to eat ass at my place, discreet, regular basis, monogamous. ☎ 4034

Sunday/Monday Playroom
South Bay hot leather Bear 40, 6'3", hairy/beard, 220lbs; black walled playroom for massage/suck/fuck/tops/butplay or your place SF, leather, versatile, safe/sane A +. ☎ 4035

Blue Jean & T-Shirt Dad Wanted
GWM 34 HIV+ 5'11", 205lbs bottom boy looking for men who are great hot sex. No relationships just sex. ☎ 4119

Attracted To Older Men
I seek a gldg man under 40 for ongoing sex of all kinds. Will train my gay or straight boy to serve me. I'm 74, 5'7", 170, gldg and horny. ☎ 4120

Quality time w/senior 65+
Japanese, warm hearted, attractive, 45, 5'8", 160#, seeks senior 65+, WM, portly, uncult, heavy balls, denture a +, for uninhibited regular basis. ☎ 4121

Pussy Need's be F
Mature GWM HIV- 5'2", wants to be fucked & FF. Make me orally submissive & wanting to suck your hot cock. Race & age no factor. ☎ 4122

Seeking HIV+ Muscle Bear Top
This masculine, muscular, 6'1 195lb, 32yo, poz bottom seeks like-status big & tall (min 6' 200#) in-shape hairy bear-dad under 40 for regular fuck sessions. ☎ 4123

Free Massage
GWM, ex-massage therapist, 6', 165lbs, 40, br/hzl offers free massage to lean GWM G/A Tops, 18-50. Let me rub you the right way. ☎ 4124

Big & Fat
GBM 44yo, 5'11", 250lbs, seek big, heavy and pleasantly fat men for uninhibited sexual connection. My size or bigger only. Discretion. ☎ 4125

Houseboy Companion
Sought- 18-35, cooking, cleaning, etc. In exchange for room and board and possibly more. Cabin in country, near hours river- Mendocino Co., 2 hours north of SF. ☎ 4126

Let's Jack Off
Let's slip out our boners & show off. Play w/out stiff wienies nice & easy. Rub our swollen penis bulbs together till we shoot. I'm 45, 5'9", 150#, furry, cleanness. ☎ 4128

Top or Bottom? Help me decide!
Anal virgin looking to safely experiment with patient gentle, playful, experienced tops and bottoms. GWM, 30, 5'8", 150, bl/bl, smooth, good-looking. Prefer WM, 20s-30s, smooth or moderately hairy. ☎ 4129

Only a Dog loves a Bone..
There's a big black Oakland bone you need to swallow often, deeply, quickly. Masculine, mobile, sincere, easy-to-reach oral bottoms only. ☎ 4130

Grandson Wanted
18-32, trim, submissive, spankable. HIV-, N/S, ND. Looking for someone to tend to my home, my properties, and me. Uncult, short A+. ☎ 4131

Asians Serviced
WM, 50, provides oral service for asian cock, balls, ass, tits, armpits, just kick back and enjoy total body worship. Big cock, uncult or muscular A +. ☎ 4133

Wanted: Young and Hung
I'm a goodlooking GWM, 38, 6ft, 185, with short brown hair, and moustache. I'm seeking young guys to suck, and more. Any nationality, but no one over 30. Leave your #. ☎ 4031

Need a Great Blow??
Hot mouth, aim to please, make your toes curl with excitement. Seek GWM, handsome, cut, 30-40s. 5'8", salt/pepper, av build. Available evenings/weekends. Tall, big dick A + + + +. ☎ 4134

Just shut up and Ride!
WM, 33, 5'10", 200lb, blond/bk muscle hunk (48" c 32" w18" arms) wants good-looking masculine men to pump me or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off- anytime. ☎ 4135

Japanese
Gentle master sought by this handsome Caucasian SF professional, 41. Please be 150# (or more). Into reciprocal geisha responsibilities. If you are, call. Masculinity treasured! ☎ 3930

Uncut White Ck Boxers
Ck boxers from M-Thr. Friday no underwear clean my uncult dick. 32yo, Latin, 5'10", 145lbs. U: 18-45, very oral. ☎ 4136

4yr Gr8 Ass Fantasy Ride My Sling
42yo VGL WM will-built loves great asses & great smiles. Guarantee I'll leave your ass feeling great and smiling big. I am honest, discrete, always safe; UB2; novices, couples welcome. Vers. Tops, rider option possible. ☎ 4137

Hairy Handsome Daddy
Seeks oral spanky boy, slim to muscular. I'm HIV+. ☎ 4233

Black Master
Looking for white submissive bottom's 18-45, call me now! ☎ 4234

ISO Boot Top
Attractive, good shape bottom young 45, HIV-, 5'7", 147; needs training sessions from good shape, masculine top HIV-, experienced, WM into boots, discrete. ☎ 4235

Black Men W/B" or More...
Who need a regular cocksucking fuck toy. Me: 5'8", 150, hairy chest will be ready to service you when you need it. ☎ 4236

Bearish Big Brother/Dad/Buddy
54, 6'5", 300, gr/bl, tan, healthy seeks younger decent guy. Call me and we'll discuss the details. ☎ 4237

Horny? Kick back & Feed Me
Hot bottom Italian stud, 45, 6', 180, moustache, goatee, buzzcut, insatiable mouth, receptive bottom & able to eat ass. Castro 12-5am. ☎ 4238

Sensual Adventures
Wanted with black or latin top men into spread eagle bondage by WM, 43, HIV+, 5'8", 170, muscular, pierced nipples, buzzed dark blonde hair, NS, possible LTR. ☎ 4238

Reverse Slavey Wanted
Sexy Bk dominant tops 25-45 have this 36 yo white guy as your servant for a day or weekend, cleaning, laundry, naked, kinky sex, friends, humiliation, ideas?? ☎ 4239

wm sks 2 gther Bk M N2 gr8 head
Nice Bk dominant tops 25-45 have this 36 yo white guy as your servant for a day or weekend, cleaning, laundry, naked, kinky sex, friends, humiliation, ideas?? ☎ 4240

Fuck Buddy Wanted
Tall Gm seeks guy for sex, any race, 25-45, hung, versatile, 6' or taller A +, NS, HIV-. ☎ 4241

LESBIAN

teach me spanish
Hot Femm Latina to teach this white chick to new language. ☎ 3738

FETISHES

Hairy as an ape?
Handsome, muscular GWM, 35, 5'11", 175lbs, b/b, seeks extremely hairy man 30-50 for J/O, etc. Hair from front to back and very thick. If you're as hairy as an ape call me. ☎ 3921

Feet! Fun! & Friendship!
Lifelong attraction to men's barefeet. Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles, fantasies, J/O. E.B. sensual GWM w/toe ring, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV- loves barefoot! ☎ 3922

Be my first: Drag-Queens Ravish
ISO Drag Queens for day time delights. Love 69, good ass, cigar smokers, enjoy Greek sex, black nylons, TTT,ND. ☎ 3923

Extremely thirsty submissive
Mature deep throat expert seeks well hung men into WS action to quench his thirst. ☎ 3924

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 4047

Cute bottom 31 nice hairy ass...
Seeks cute affectionate big bro top under 35. To gently feed me his big dick. Cum, piss, ass and puke me! Prefer relationship. ☎ 3925

Scat bottom wanted
Handsome BM, 39, 170lbs, well hung, wants hot WM. Your big balls get your scat eaten by a pro! ☎ 3926

Beefy, Bald, Skinhead Dudes
Like a mature, handsome, bearded GWM, hot mouth, great touch between your legs or working your headneck? Experienced attention by a 5'10", 155, toned, hot man for the serious and aware only. ☎ 3927

Suck Off & More
Your cock in my throat. My tongue in your slit hole. You balls full of protein and bladder full of hot piss. Same daylight call back. Be under 35. ☎ 4044

Character Through Discipline
Stem, punishing headmaster, Frat paddle master, corporal punishment coach demonstrate small pain is big character gain. ☎ 4045

Bondage Top
Experienced bondage top, 40, 5'8", 155, attractive, seeks submissive, obedient, masculine, in-shape bottom, 25-40, for erotic bondage play. Safe, discreet. SF, East Bay. ☎ 4046

Big Muscular Curious CBT Top
Wanting to explore other side with sane experienced practitioner of slow, intense CBT, TT and power exchange. Me: Goodlooking, 48, tattooed, buzzcut, moustache. HIV-. Aroma, etc. ☎ 4048

Ass Eater
Ass eater available with long wet tongue. Cum sit in my rim chair. In shape tops only. ☎ 4049

Ball Players Club
A network of men who love nuts (pumping, salme, stretching, weights, silicone, etc.) Ball party's, newsletter, photo and info exchange (e-mail or reg mail). ☎ 4050

Seeking Asian Cigar Lovers!
Attractive GWM 40 seeks smooth Asian guys 20-40 who enjoy kicking back with a big cigar. Let's take turns doing one another while we enjoy a smoke! 4051

Fantasy/Nudity/Eroticism
GAM gym toned 38, seeks a good-looking, lean muscular GM, 28-40, for unconventional S/M, BD, CBT, maybe take picture or video together. We may start something good and unexpected. ☎ 4052

Wet Clothes Fantasy
Soaking-wet levis, T-shirts, fully-clothed showers, swims. Me: 41, 5'6", 140#, athletic, muscular, dk hair/beard, hairy. Let's get wet together! ☎ 4053

Hard Muscled Party Pigs Wanted
Pierced, tattooed, beefy muscle leather raunch pig with extra long fat meat looking to play rough and nasty with other versatile to top rugged, well hug muscle pigs. ☎ 4054

Let's bare our Soles!
Lifelong attraction to men's barefeet. Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles, fantasies, J/O. E.B. sensual GWM w/toe ring, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV- loves barefoot! ☎ 4242

Exhibitionist 7am-1pm weekdays
Seeking sadists/voyeurs. Me: HIV+, tall, naked, obedient, 37, eager. Into: showing off, heavy titwork, slapping, C/B, ass, head-trips. You: in control, shared interests more important than looks age. ☎ 4243

Bondage Slave Wanted
Muscular leather master looking for butch white slave boy for training. Master is 6', 210, hairy chest, muscular, 50s; you be serious, fit and eager to submit. ☎ 4244

Baseball players
Major, minor and college players only! Uniform required. 34yo seeking GWM 18-40yrs slim and trim for safe fun ballplay, discreet. ☎ 4245

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 4047

Chubby men
LM 42, 6', 155lbs. ISO husky & heavyset men who enjoy lots of kissing, affection and oral action. Facial hair A+. Not into gay lifestyle, gyms, drugs. S 4247

COUPLES

3 Way
GWM seeks versatile couple for sex, any race, 25-45, HIV-, N/S, ND. ☎ 3941

3 Way Fantasy
GAM 44, 5'8", 151lbs, very smooth muscular body looking for mature (middle aged)GWMcouple for 3way experience in SF area. ☎ 4055

Attractive Butt Shy
Inexperienced, GWM, very oral, 34, 5'9", 160, Br/Bm, moustache seeking GWA/C, 28-40, gentle, patient, for regular sensual 3-way. Serious, clean, sane only. I'm HIV- UB2. ☎ 4056

Training
GWM Master mid 50s trains and disciplines errant boys. Other masters send your boy to me for additional training or I can travel. Novices accepted. ☎ 4138

Nasty? Horny???????? Like to Cum?
Good looking GWM, 38, poz, seeks young nasty men to eat my butt, suck my cock, and worship my load, while I kick back, have a beer, watch porn. Daytime only. ☎ 4139

My Fantasy Takes 2 Mouths
One to rim my ass while one guzzles liquid good men to eat my hard dick. Will my fantasy be realized? Thirsty, hungry pervers need kinky mind important; age, looks not. ☎ 4140

Uncut only
WM 50s clean healthy daytime drinker on fixed income, seeks same. I do oral drain hose no reciprocation. ND, sincere, your place, WM, LTM. ☎ 4141

I Squat, You Lick...
Nasty talkin', joystick wearing! Top-Man into long rimseal sessions seekin', cocksuckin', buttlickin'. Bottomboy to worship his dick, balls & butthole. ☎ 4142

OTHER

san Diego top iso pig btm w/eager
Mouth 4 wknd front & rear ratchet. VGL XUSN cut WM, 6' 160, brbr, Gd buzz, 47. Crusty kick hairy ass, full musky bush. Dig short insat. hirsutes. Wooo! No S/M. Just sweaty man2man lust. Do it deep, boy. Now! ☎ 3748

Gay, Bi, Poly Sci-Fi club
Meets 2nd Saturdays monthly @ 200pm. T.V, films, erotic c.t... Everyone welcome. Snacks provided. ☎ 3854

Enjoy Engaging Conversation?
Join us for delicious, stimulating and volatile discourse on books, movies, theater, politics and relationships. ☎ 4057

GM Group Meets Sunday Evenings
Share food/listen to symphony, opera, etc. Various ages. Hosting/programming rotate. Informal, relaxed, non-professional musicians. open to new members & ideas. ☎ 4143

Morning walking partner sought
I live @ 19th and Market and seek someone to walk with, beginning 7-7:30 for wake-up and exercise. It's a lovely trip! ☎ 4246

BARTALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!

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Snowpony, left to right: Katharine Gifford, Max Corradi, Debbie Googe

Real girl power

by Gregg Shapiro

Forget about the Spice Girls. About as spicy as salt, they should be labeled sex-offenders for the damage they've done to the collective psyche of young girls everywhere. Where is the real girl power coming from? How about women who front mostly male bands? That's a good place to start. After all, Cerys Matthews (of Catatonia), Sonia Aurora Madan (of Echobelly), and Isabel Monteiro (of Drugstore) haven't lost their feminine identities in the company of a few men. If anything, being in such mixed company seems to have strengthened them.

Matthews' voice, which bares a striking resemblance to that of Isabel Monteiro's, is like the hand that guides the songs through the light and dark. The "international" flavor of her band's second full-length disc *International Velvet* (Vapor/Warner Brothers) makes an appearance on the album's title track, which is sung in Welsh (Catatonia hails from Wales) and has a drinking-song chorus which goes, "Every day when I wake up/I thank the Lord I'm Welsh." For the most part, Catatonia (a band named for a "schizophrenic disorder characterized by stupor") keeps the energy level pretty high, especially on tracks such as "I Am The Mob," "Mulder And Scully," "Road Rage," "Goldfish And Paracetamol," and "Part Of The Furniture." The Spice Girls (what remains of them) would be wise to listen to "Why I Can't Stand One Night Stands," while their impressionable young fans might get something out of "My Selfish Gene."

Like Drugstore's Isabel, Echobelly's Sonia is a performer who should be seen live (along with her fellow bandmates) to be

experienced to the fullest. On *Lustra* (Epic), their third disc for a major label, Echobelly has weathered some changes, including the addition of strings (on "Bulldog Baby") and the loss of guitarist Debbie Smith. However, what remains is what gives *Lustra* its luster. Songs such as "Here Comes The Big Rush," "Iris Art," "The World Is Flat," "Everyone Knows Better," the acoustic blues setting of "Bleed," the title track, the stunning piano/guitar/vocal simplicity of "Heroes In June," and "Falling Flame," find the band expanding their sound, improving on something that I once thought couldn't get any better.

Snowpony is a trio consisting of Katharine Gifford (formerly of Stereolab), Debbie Googe (formerly of My Bloody Valentine), and a male drummer. The "girl power" is really no more or less a part of Snowpony than it is for Echobelly and Catatonia, it's just more visible. What is a big part of Snowpony is their innovative sound, which you can hear to great advantage on "Easy Way Down," "Siamese Fighting Fish," "Love Letters," "A Way To Survive," "St. Lucy's Gate," "Snow White," and "John Brown (Triumphal March)."

Speaking of Debbie Smith, another of her former bands, Curve (fronted by Toni Halliday), released an album earlier this year called *Come Clean* (Estupendo/Universal) that deserves to be heard more than it was. As for the aforementioned band Drugstore, their debut disc *White Magic For Lovers* (Roadrunner) would qualify as one of the best albums of the year, even if it didn't feature guest vocals by Radiohead's Thom Yorke (on "El President"). ▼

Snowpony plays the Great American Music Hall on October 8.

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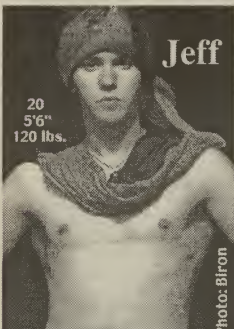
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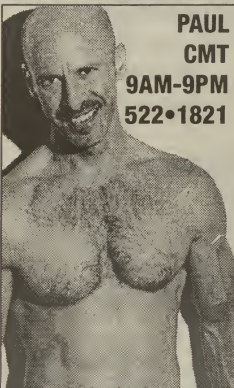
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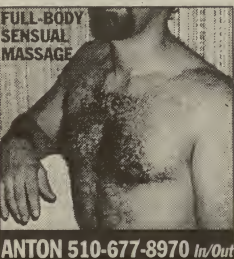
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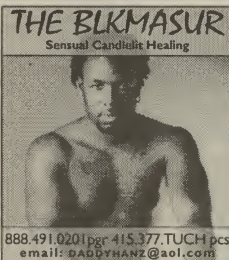
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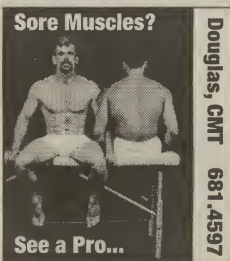
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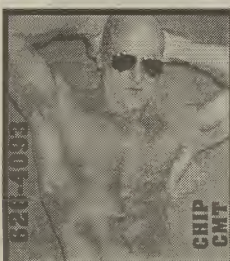
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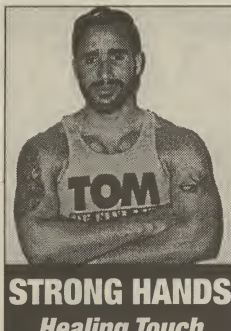
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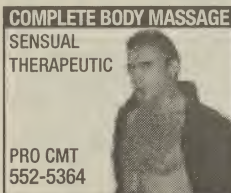


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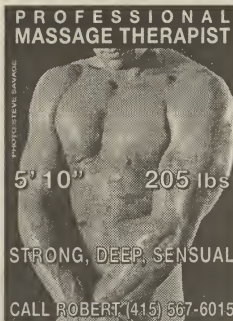
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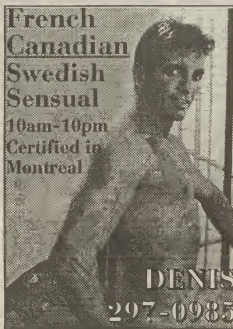
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CONGRATULATIONS

to the Leather Pride Walk organizers and to the Bare Chest Calendar Auction organizers. Together they raised almost \$7500 for the AIDS EMERGENCY FUND last Sunday, Sep.20

Good show! Good luck! Good fortune

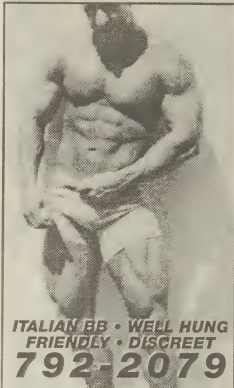
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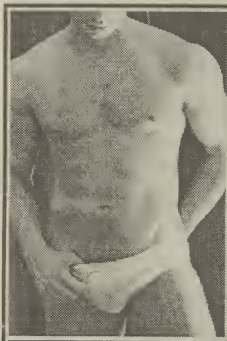
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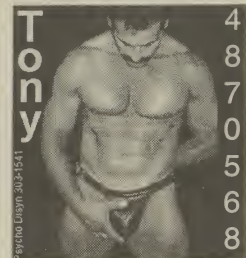
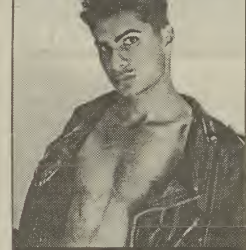
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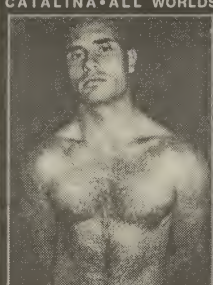
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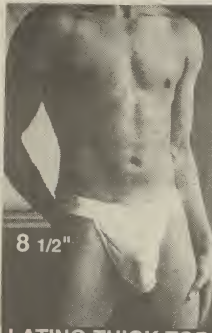
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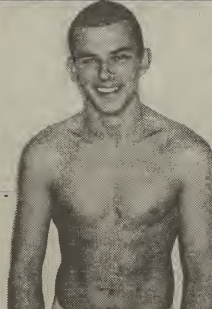
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Lean Blond Versatile boy
 22 6' 145# Blond/Blue
CUTE BOY NEXT DOOR
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Handsome, Smooth, Masculine
JAPANESE-AMER
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 muscle, 32yo, friendly. 207-6696

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 Joe 415-431-MALE \$85/95

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 Exp S&M Torture heavy or light
 I respect boundaries and I am cute
 25yo 505-8256 or 399-9144, if no
 success please page 207-9964

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 Treat yourself to a wild, wild time!
 25yo stud! Slender Smooth Muscular
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ALL AMERICAN MALE
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 6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly
 Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

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 6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly
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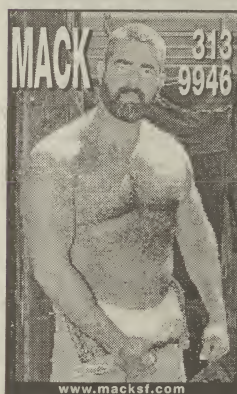
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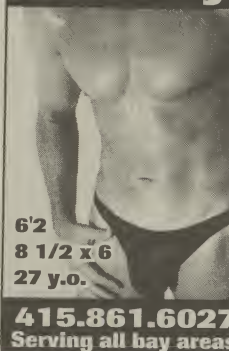
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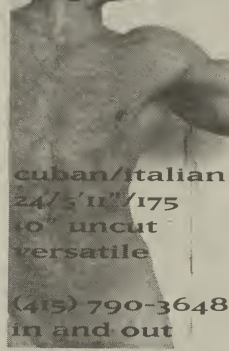
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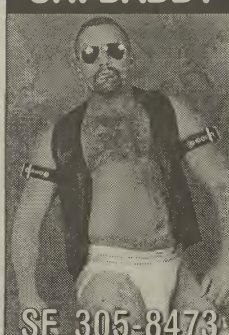
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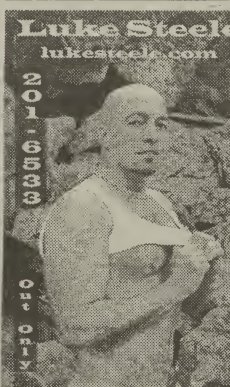
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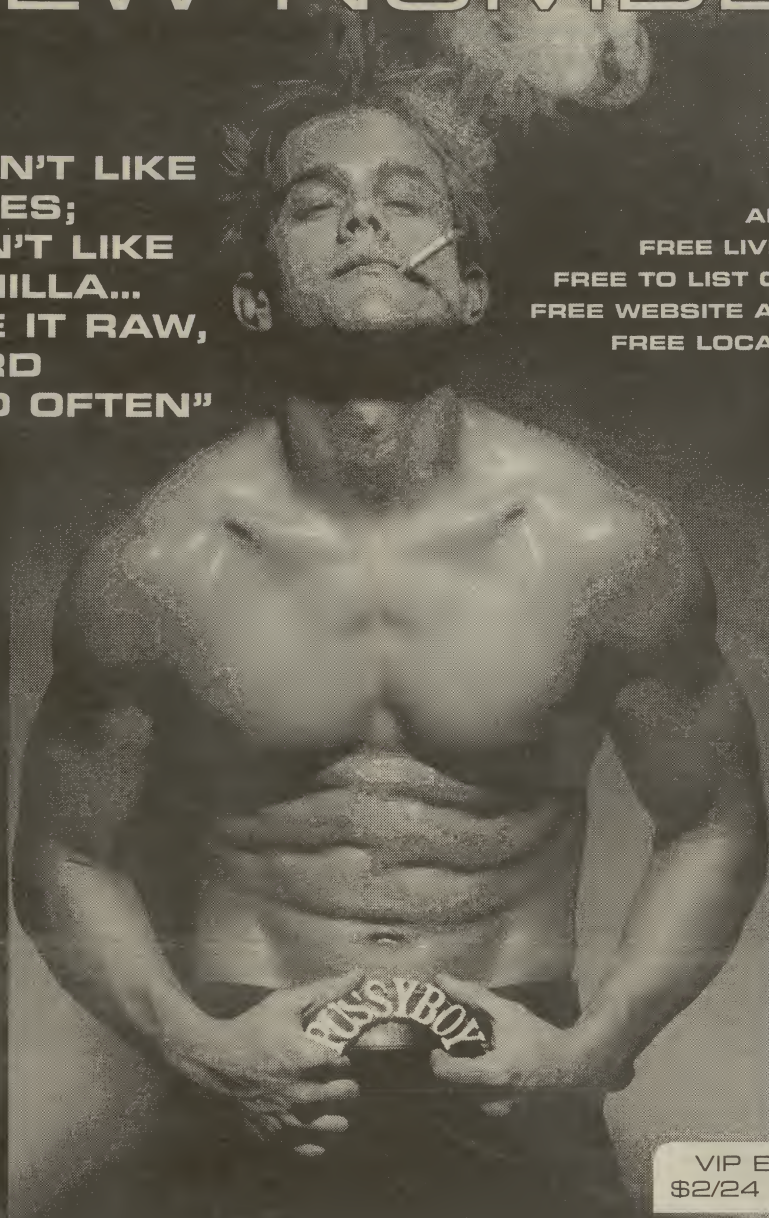
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